

6 That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. 2 And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. 3 Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him." 4 So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. 5 The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in." 6 So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" 7 And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, 8 let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head. 9 Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!' " 10 Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken." 11 So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!" 12 Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered. 13 When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him." 14 While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

1. The worm turns

- a. We now see why Esther was led to have 2 banquets
 - a1. Mordecai needed to be elevated to foil Haman's plot
 - a2. Xerxes can't sleep, so he wants to be read to
- b. The list of ironies in the story is amazing
 - a1. The Persians would call this turn of events *fate*, while Hindus would call it *karma*
 - a2. Believers know what created these events was the *providence of God*
- c. The sequence & timing of events were divinely orchestrated:
 - a1. Queen Vashti offends the king
 - a2. The Jewish girl, Esther, is made queen in Vashti's place
 - a3. Haman desires to execute Mordecai, along with all the Jews, for his lack of homage to him
 - a4. Haman erects a tall pike to impale Mordecai on
 - a5. Queen Esther finds favor with Xerxes who intends to honor her by granting her any wish she desires

- a6. Esther makes a banquet for the king & Haman
- a7. Haman is elated, but grieved at Mordecai's disrespect
- a8. Zeresh, his wife, suggests that Haman requests that the king allow him to execute Mordecai
- a9. The king suffers from insomnia
- a10. The king's chronicler reads to the king from the section of the record where Mordecai saved the king's life some 5 years previous
- a11. The king asks what honor was given to Mordecai (the Greek historian Herodotus recorded that Persian kings lavishly rewarded those who benefitted them)
- a12. The king is grieved to hear that nothing was done for Mordecai for his act of loyalty
- a13. Haman went to the court while it was still dark so that he could obtain permission from the king when he arose to execute Mordecai before the banquet
- a14. The king invites Haman into his bedchamber to advise him how to honor one in which the king delights
- a15. Haman, thinking that he was the one to be honored, advises the king to have the honoree wear royal robes while on a royal horse being led by a great prince who would take him through the streets of Susa, proclaiming that this is how the king honors those in whom he delights

d. The king then orders Haman to do as he said for Mordecai

- a1. Xerxes still does not know that Mordecai is one of the same people whom he had signed a death warrant
- a2. Haman is told to hurry & do everything he proposed

2. Walk of humiliation

- a. Haman has no choice but to comply
- b. In utter humiliation Haman walks before Mordecai, declaring that his enemy is a special honoree of the king
- c. Afterwards, Haman covers his head & rushes home to share his humiliation with his wife & friends
- d. Haman goes from exaltation to dejection in a few hours

3. Prophecy from the lips of a Persian wife

- a. Haman expected some sort of comfort from his wife & friends
 - a1. Instead, in a prophetic utterance, they told him that this omen meant that he would fall before Mordecai the Jew (they took the omen as fate turning on him)
 - a2. Haman's shock & dread must have been crushing
- b. In the midst of his grief the king's servants arrive to escort Haman to Esther's banquet
 - a1. Haman had to prepare for his fate
 - a2. Even though nothing indicated that he had lost the favor of the king, Zeresh's prediction weighed on him
- c. God worked to honor his covenant with Abraham & David
- d. Haman must have gone to the banquet with trepidation