

# **Esther 05 - Esther Approaches the King; First Banquet with Ahasuerus & Haman; Invite to Second Banquet; Haman Plots Murder Against Ahasuerus; Haman Constructs Gallows**

## **I. Threat to the Jews (Esther 1:1—5:14)**

- (6) Esther invites Ahasuerus and Haman to her banquets (5:1-8)
  - (A) Esther appears before Ahasuerus (5:1-4)
    - (a) Ahasuerus asks what is troubling Esther (5:1-3)
    - (b) Esther invites Ahasuerus and Haman to her banquet (5:4)
  - (B) Esther's banquet for Ahasuerus and Haman (5:5-8)
    - (a) Ahasuerus asks Esther to state her request (5:5-6)
    - (b) Esther asks Ahasuerus and Haman to attend another banquet the next day (5:7-8)
- (7) Haman's strategy to murder Mordecai (5:9-14)
  - (A) Mordecai's continued disrespect for Haman and Haman's subsequent anger (5:9-10)
  - (B) Haman's arrogance (5:11-12)
  - (C) Haman's hatred for Mordecai (5:13)
  - (D) Haman's wife advises Haman to build a gallows for the purpose of hanging Mordecai (5:14)

## **Esther 5**

- (6) Esther invites Ahasuerus and Haman to her banquets (5:1-8)
  - (A) Esther appears before Ahasuerus (5:1-4)
    - (a) Ahasuerus asks what is troubling Esther (5:1-3)

**1** Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner courtyard of the king's palace in front of the king's rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace.

**1** Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace in front of the king's rooms, and the king was sitting on his

royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace.

**1** On the third day, Esther put on her royal attire and stood in the inner courtyard of the palace in front of the king's quarters. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the building.

**1** Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.

- Esther didn't know exactly what to do, but she did something in an effort to make something happen that needed to happen. She was immediately rewarded.

**2** When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the courtyard, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which *was* in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the top of the scepter.

**2** When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which *was* in his hand. So Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter.

**2** When the king saw Queen Esther standing in the courtyard, she won his favor, and the king extended to Esther the gold scepter that he was holding. Esther approached and touched the top of the scepter.

**2** And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

- Another remarkable example of how God turns the hearts of kings (Prov 21:1; Cf. Gen 39-41; Ezra 1:1-4; Dan 2-5; Acts 2:23)

**3** Then the king said to her, "What is *troubling* you, Queen Esther? And what is your request? Up **to half of the kingdom** it shall be given to you."

**3** Then the king said to her, "What is *troubling* you, Queen Esther? And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be given to you."

**3** The king asked her, "What do you want, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even if it's half of the kingdom, it will be given to you."

**3** Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, Queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

- "...to half of the kingdom" - hyperbole for "I will grant you even a very large request if you so desire" or "at great personal sacrifice" (Cf. v6; 7:2; Mark 6:22-23)

— Ahasuerus sensed her desire for a special request; he understood that it was at the risk of death that she approached him

(b) Esther invites Ahasuerus and Haman to her banquet (5:4)

4 Esther said, "If it pleases the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

4 Esther said, "If it pleases the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

4 Esther replied, "If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet I've prepared for him."

4 And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.

(B) Esther's banquet for Ahasuerus and Haman (5:5-8)

(a) Ahasuerus asks Esther to state her request (5:5-6)

5 Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly so that we may do as Esther desires." So the king and Haman came to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

5 Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly that we may do as Esther desires." So the king and Haman came to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

5 The king responded, "Bring Haman quickly so we may do what Esther has requested." So the king and Haman went to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

5 Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

- It was an unusual honor to be invited to a banquet with the queen, as Persian officials were protective of their wives

6 As they drank their wine at the banquet, the king said to Esther, "What is your request, for it shall be granted to you. And what is your wish? Up to half of the kingdom it shall be done."

6 As they drank their wine at the banquet, the king said to Esther, "What is your petition, for it shall be granted to you. And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be done."

6 While they were drinking wine, the king asked Esther, "What's your petition? It will be given to you. What's your request? Up to half of the kingdom, and it will be done."

6 And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.

- The king understood that it was not for mere entertainment that Esther had risked her life. His curiosity continued to ripen...

(b) Esther asks Ahasuerus and Haman to attend another banquet the next day (5:7-8)

7 So Esther replied, "My request and my wish is:

7 So Esther replied, "My petition and my request is:

7 Esther answered, "This is my petition and my request:

7 Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is;

8 if I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request and do what I wish, may the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king says."

8 if I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and do what I request, may the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king says."

8 If I've found favor with the king and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and to honor my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I'll prepare for them tomorrow, and then I'll do what the king has said."

8 If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.

- Esther invited them to the first banquet only to invite them again to a second banquet again the next day. This additional 24 hours turns out to be a critical delaying interval.

— She must have had a good reason to postpone her request to the king. Conjectures abound, but whatever the reason was for the delay in making the request to Ahasuerus, God used it for good.

(7) Haman's strategy to murder Mordecai (5:9-14)

(A) Mordecai's continued disrespect for Haman and Haman's subsequent anger (5:9-10)

9 Then Haman went out that day joyful and pleased of heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai at the king's gate and that he did not stand up or tremble before him, Haman was filled with anger against Mordecai.

9 Then Haman went out that day glad and pleased of heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate and that he did not stand up or tremble before him, Haman was filled with anger against Mordecai.

9 Haman went out that day pleased and happy, but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, and that he did not stand up and tremble in his presence, Haman was furious with Mordecai.

9 Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.

- Haman was delighted that he had been invited to not one, but two, banquets with the king and queen. But he was angered that, once again, Mordecai did not show him the proper respect.

10 Haman controlled himself, however, and went to his house. But he sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh.

10 Haman controlled himself, however, went to his house and sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh.

10 Haman restrained himself, went to his house, and sent for<sup>3</sup> his friends and his wife Zeresh.

10 Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.

#### (B) Haman's arrogance (5:11-12)

11 Then Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and **his many sons**, and every *occasion on* which the king had honored him and how he had promoted him above the officials and servants of the king.

11 Then Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches, and the number of his sons, and every *instance* where the king had magnified him and how he had promoted him above the princes and servants of the king.

11 Then Haman told them about his splendid wealth, the number of his sons, all the ways the king had honored him, and that he had promoted him above all the other officials and ministers of the king.

11 And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.

- On this occasion, to relieve himself of his rage and anxiety about Mordecai, he gathered his family and friends and spent time boasting about the wealth he had amassed and the family he had raised

— Haman boasted of four things that proud men usually boast about: his wealth, his children, his position, and his greatness with the ladies.

- "...his many sons" - Haman had ten sons (9:7-10)

— Haman was so overwrought about Mordecai that he could not enjoy his good position. His obsession poisoned the joy of his position and opportunity.

12 Haman also said, "Even Esther the queen let no one except me come with the king to the banquet which she had prepared; and tomorrow also I am invited by her with the king.

12 Haman also said, "Even Esther the queen let no one but me come with the king to the banquet which she had prepared; and tomorrow also I am invited by her with the king.

12 Then Haman said, "Even Queen Esther brought no one except me with the king to the banquet that she held. Furthermore, I (along with the king) have also been invited by her tomorrow.

**12** Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.

- God sends blindness to those whom He means to destroy (Jer 17:5-9). Haman had no perception of the influences that God was putting in place behind the scenes:

- God had given Mordecai the heroism of faith
- God had strengthened timid Esther
- God had Haman erect the necessary gallows

#### (C) Haman's hatred for Mordecai (5:13)

13 Yet all of this does not satisfy me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

13 Yet all of this does not satisfy me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

13 But all this does not satisfy me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

13 Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.

- He admits his wealth and position availed him nothing: his obsession with Mordecai poisoned his peace and exuberance

— A person of good character overlooks small slights against himself, but a person of inferior character magnifies them

#### (D) Haman's wife advises Haman to build a gallows for the purpose of hanging Mordecai (5:14)

14 Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "Have a **wooden gallowsfifty cubits** high made, and in the morning ask the king to have Mordecai hanged on it; then go joyfully with the king to the banquet." And the advice pleased Haman, so he had the wooden *gallows* made.

14 Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "Have a gallows fifty cubits high made and in the morning ask the king to have Mordecai hanged on it; then go joyfully with

the king to the banquet." And the advice pleased Haman, so he had the gallows made.

14 Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said, "Have a pole made 50 cubits high, and then in the morning speak to the king and have Mordecai hanged on it. Then go with the king to the banquet happy." This advice pleased Haman, and he had the pole made.

**14** Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.

- "...wooden *gallows*" - a tree or pole

- "...fifty cubits" - 75 feet; large enough to be seen easily by everyone

- This would be unusually tall for a gallows. Haman may have erected his gallows on the top of a hill or building on Haman's estate, or above his house (Cf. 7:9) to account for the extreme height.