**The Shocking Request of a Jewish Queen**

**Esther 7:1 - 8:17**

This morning, we come to the great climax and turning point in our story of Esther. Thus far it has appeared that Haman is prospering and that his evil plot will prevail. However, God has placed Esther in the position of Queen, “For such a time as this.”

Esther has been both prayerful and patient in her response and request before the king. She has waited on the timing of God. She has petitioned the Lord through days of fasting and prayer; now it’s time to take a stand!

* **Queen Esther reveals her hidden . (7:1-6)** One of the great elements of this drama is the reality that Esther has hidden her ethnicity from everyone including the King for over 5 years now. Mordecai had instructed her to remain silent, and so she did.

Everyone knew Mordecai was a Jew, but they did not know the relationship between him and Esther. The time has come for Queen Esther to make a great reveal to the king.

* **The King’s and Haman’s fear. (7:7)** When the king learns that the plot to destroy the Jews included the Queen, and that Haman was the mastermind behind the plot, he is angry! So angry that he rises and goes out into the palace garden, I suppose, to “cool-down.”

While the king is outside, Haman is begging Queen Esther for his own life!

* **Haman is on the gallows he had built for Mordecai. (8-10)** Esther is reclining on a couch or bed, and Haman is laying across it begging for his life, when the king comes back into the room.

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The king thinks that Haman is trying to force himself upon Esther and immediately calls the chamberlains and they cover Haman’s face. The king has Haman hanged on the 75-foot gallows he prepared for Mordecai.

**The Bible has much to say about the plans of the wicked being turned upon themselves: (Proverbs 26:27; Psalm 7:15, 9:15, 57:6 and Ecclesiastes 10:8)**

* **The Queen issues a new allowing the Jews to defend themselves. 8:1-17**

The Jews are spared by the same signet ring that had delivered their death sentence. The king granted the Jews the right to gather together and to defend themselves against their enemies.

Verse 8:17, “many of the people became Jews.” The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob received the glory!

**Application: You cannot remain hidden forever; you must eventually take a stand.**

**The middle of the story may look radically different than the end!**

**God receives glory even in the midst of the chaos and confusion!**

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