

Esther chapter 6

a long
chain of coincidences.

at least 11 !





That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king`s officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. "What honour and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked. "Nothing has been done for him," his attendants answered. The king said, "Who is in the court?"

Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows he had erected for him. His attendants answered, "Haman is standing in the court." "Bring him in," the king ordered. When Haman entered, the king asked him, "What should be done for the man the king delights to honour?" Now Haman thought to himself, "Who is there that the king would rather honour than me?"



So he answered the king, "For the man the king delights to honour, have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head. Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honour, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, `This is what is done for the man the king delights to honour!`" "Go at once," the king commanded Haman. "Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended." So Haman got the robe and the horse. He robed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city streets, proclaiming before him, "This is what is done for the man the king delights to honour!"

Afterward Mordecai returned to the king`s gate. But Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief, and told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, "Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him--you will surely come to ruin!" While they were still talking with him, the king`s eunuchs arrived and hurried Haman away to the banquet Esther had prepared.



That night

That night the king could not sleep;

Of all possible nights,
it is the night that Haman had hatched his plot to murder Mordechai.



A bad case of insomnia

That night the king could not sleep;



What might have kept him awake?

Anxiety

Troubled conscience

Indigestion

?

But what (who) really kept him
awake?

Contrast Peter in prison in Acts 12

chronicle-sleep-aid

so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him.



sleep-aid

so he ordered the book of the chronicles,
the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him.

What time was it he called? – it seems he had been awake most of the night before he called.

Why not call for musicians to play some soothing music?
Instead he asked them to read his chronicles - ordinary boring stuff?

Were there several volumes? And if so why did they chose that one?

Why were they reading this particular section?
And why didn't they skip the disturbing bit?



The disturbing bit that caught his attention

It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.



It had been recorded at the time but had been forgotten.

How did Mordechai feel about being ignored?

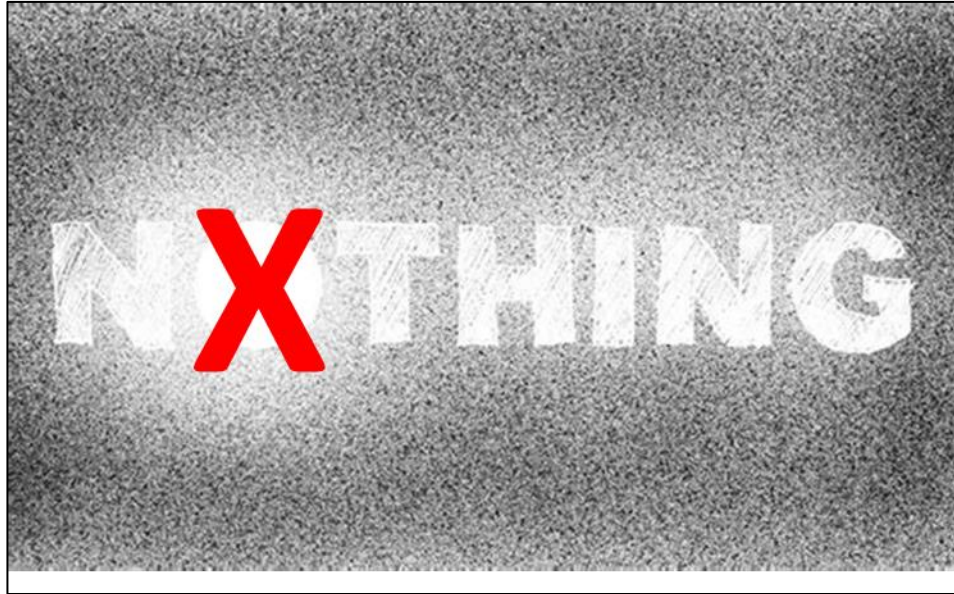
How would you react?

The delay is God's doing.

This was the right time.

Nothing has been done for him

"What honour and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked. "Nothing has been done for him," his attendants answered.



The king is feeling generous.

Why did the servants remember?

If something had been done, perhaps he would have ignored it – BUT nothing had been done.

It is early in the morning

The king said, "Who is in the court?"

Another early riser - Haman!



If he had come earlier all this might never have happened.

Haman's evil plan

Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about hanging Mordechai on the gallows he had erected for him.

He was coming to see about the first business of the day ...

getting Mordechai hanged!



Enter

His attendants answered, "Haman is standing in the court."
"Bring him in," the king ordered.

He's just the man to ask for some advice.



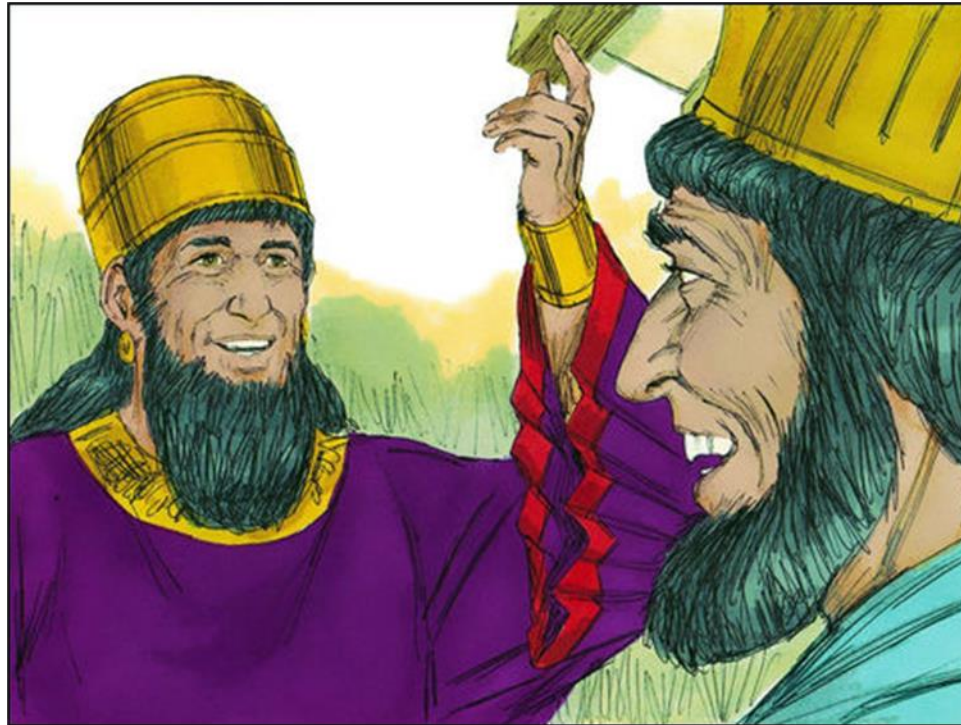
First things first

When Haman entered, the king asked him,
"What should be done for the man the king delights to honour?"

The king could have said, "What do you want?"

But before Haman can speak he wants an answer to his question.

He could have mentioned Mordechai's name but he didn't. Why not?



It's got to be me!

Now Haman thought to himself,
"Who is there that the king would rather honour than me?"

Here is a self-centred man

let's forget about Mordechai for the moment

Things are looking good!



Give him 'the WORKS' !

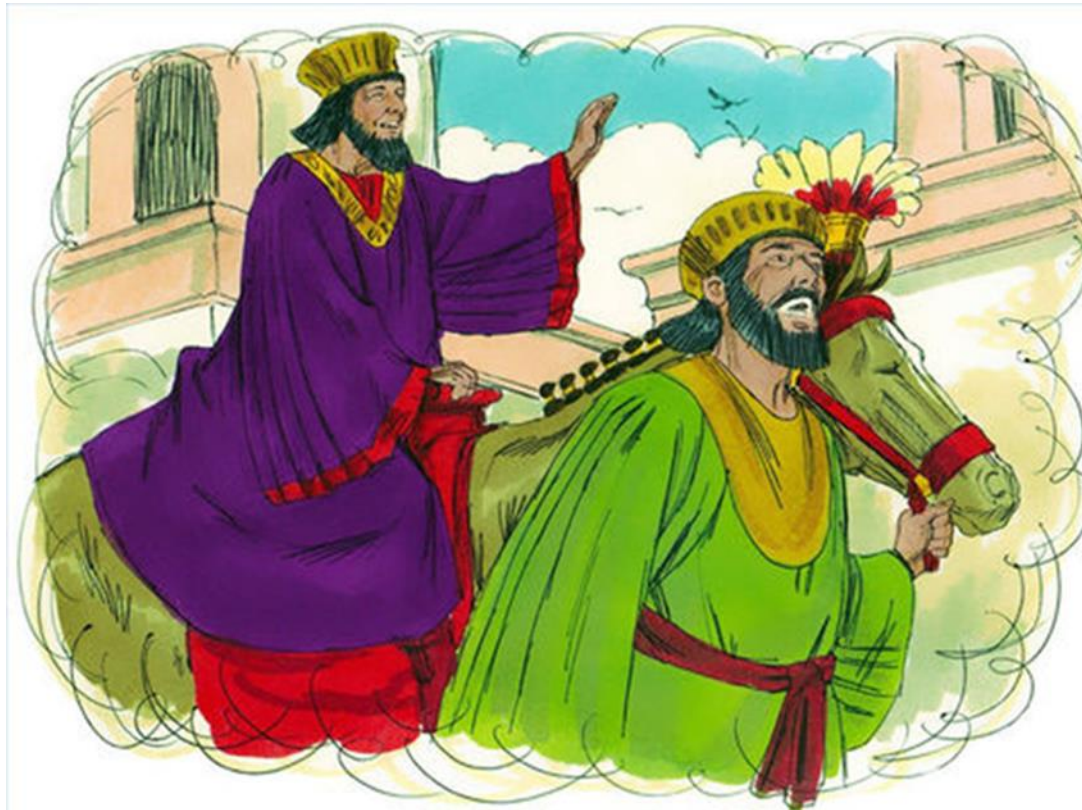
So he answered the king, "For the man the king delights to honour, have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head.



Things that the king has used shows the high honour given.

I can just see myself, right now.

Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honour, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honour!'



It's all about showing off.

Oh no!

"Go at once," the king commanded Haman. "Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king`s gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended."

He can't ask about Mordechai now – his scheme has been totally frustrated.

Do not neglect anything you have recommended - you said it – now do it.



Fake smile, clenched teeth.

So Haman got the robe and the horse. He robed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city streets, proclaiming before him, "This is what is done for the man the king delights to honour!"



It must have been quite a surprise for Mordechai after all this time.

Are you pleased when others get blessed?

Business as usual

Afterward Mordecai returned to the king's gate.

Be grateful, but don't let it go to your head.



It's all going wrong

But Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief, and told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him.



He rushed home – perplexed, annoyed, fearful.

His family and friends hadn't seen what happened. It will be a shock for them too.

How quickly things can change – when God decides to act.

A Jewish connection (Genesis 12:3)

His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, "Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him--you will surely come to ruin!"



They sense there is a Jewish connection to all this (they don't know the half – yet)
They confirm his fears – and predict a bad ending to it all.

No time to think

While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and hurried Haman away to the banquet Esther had prepared.



He has to leave for the banquet, and would go past the 'useless' gallows he had built near his house.

He probably didn't have much of an appetite

There are so many places in this account where if things had been slightly different, it would have been quite another story.

God as well as being the Creator of all things, also attends to the fine details.

