

For such a time as this



Esther 7:1-10

So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther, and as they were drinking wine on that second day, the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favour with you, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, grant me my life--this is my petition. And spare my people--this is my request. For I and my people have been sold for destruction and slaughter and annihilation. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.

Esther 7:1-10



" King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?" Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this vile Haman." Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden. But Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life. Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, "Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?" As soon as the word left the king`s mouth, they covered Haman`s face.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, "A gallows seventy-five feet high stands by Haman`s house. He had it made for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king." The king said, "Hang him on it!" So they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king`s fury subsided.

Esther 7:1-10



Timing is important

So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther, v1



Enjoy a good meal first.
The right people in the right place.

At the end of a good meal?

and as they were drinking wine on that second day, v2



Was Xerxes thinking – after this good meal, what comes next?

What is your petition?

the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted." v2

It is a king's grandiose way of saying
– you can have

We are meant to be impressed
with his generosity!

WHAT
EVER
YOU WANT

Somebody is trying to kill me

Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favour with you, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, grant me my life--this is my petition. v3



Observe the correct protocol

It's a favour she needs.

It is personal – spare my life.

And it's not just me...

And spare my people--this is my request. v3



She is Jewish and so are 'my people'.

This is a call for mercy.

It is the key point here in God's plan

The 'Jewish people' must continue.

This is the problem

For I and my people have been sold
for destruction and slaughter and annihilation. v4



It is personal “I”

It is big – “my **people**”

It is nasty - we’ve been ‘sold’

And it is vicious – slaughter

If it had only been

If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king. v4



Such as sold as male and female slaves
It wouldn't have been right to bother you

BUT
this is
BIG!!!

Who is he?

" King Xerxes asked Queen Esther,
"Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?" v5



Notice that he assumes it is a man.

He responded in the way
Esther had hoped.

He could have ignored it as
a trivial matter – “She’s
getting worried over
nothing.”

But he’s got it.

Code words

" King Xerxes asked Queen Esther,
"Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?" v5

"Who is he?"

הוא זה ואי זה

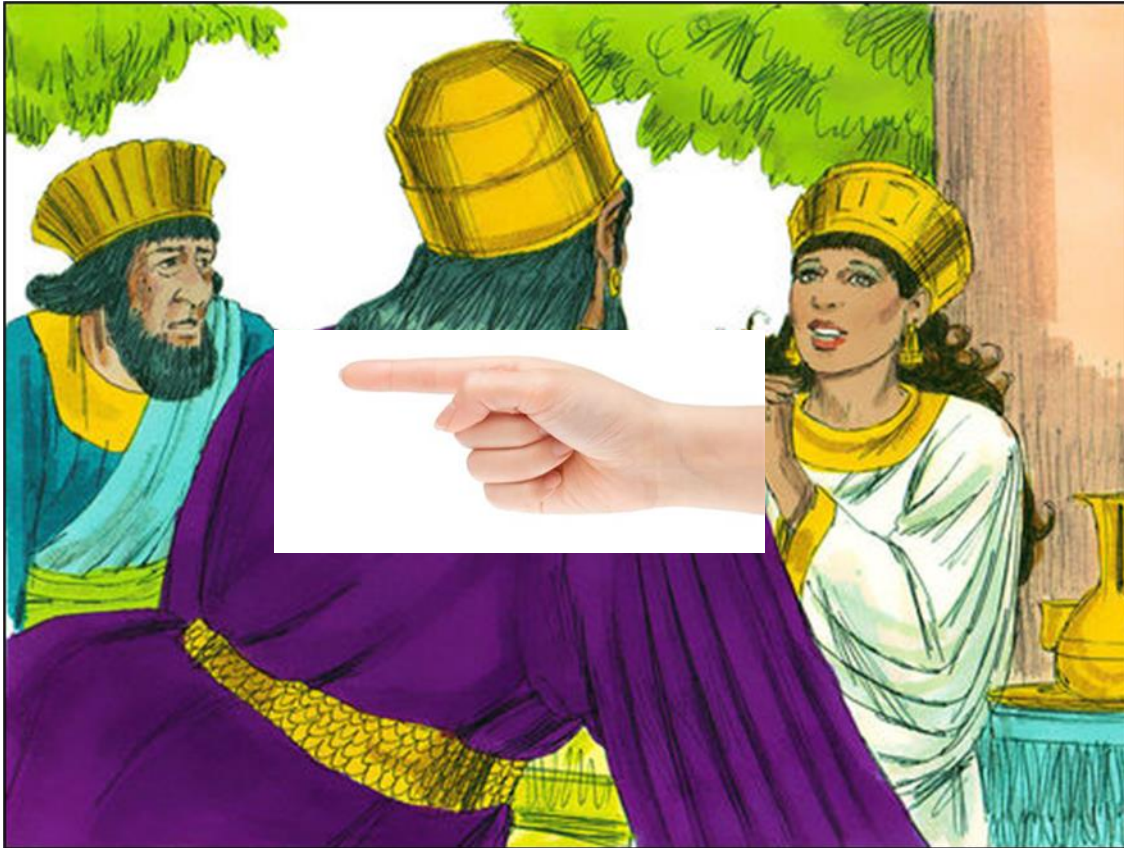
E H Y H

=

I AM

A big surprise?

Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this **vile** Haman." v6

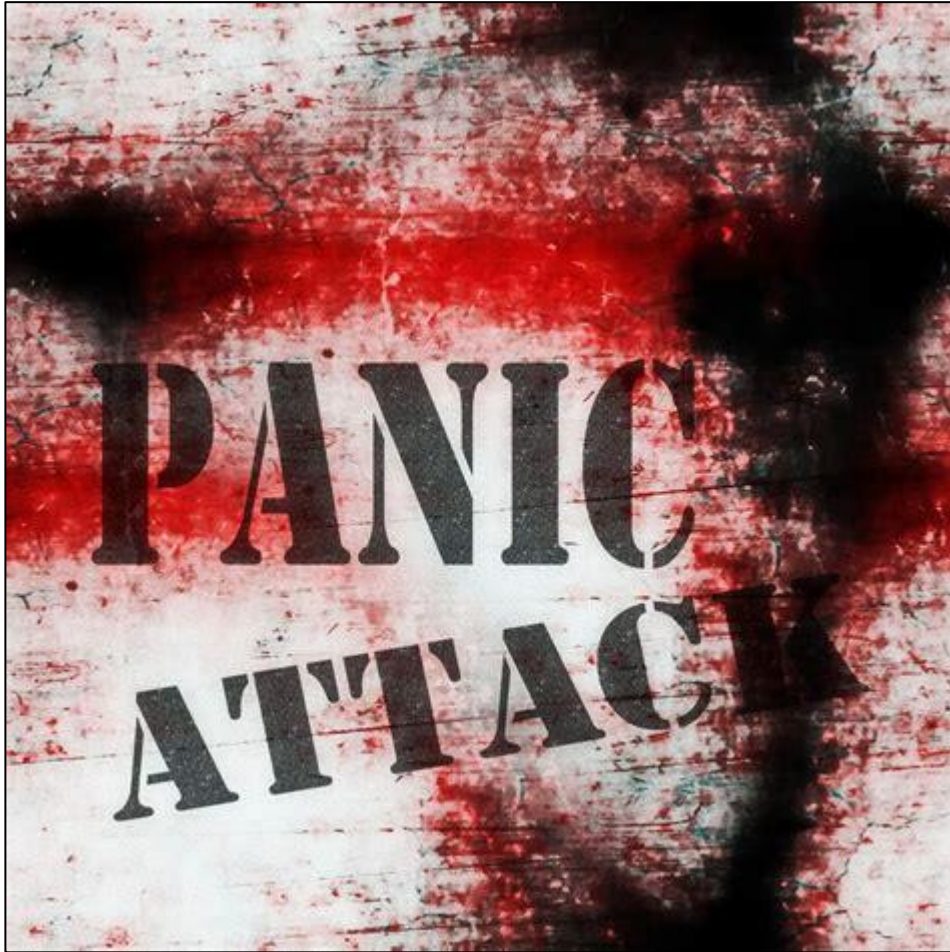


Vile = evil = wicked

As Haman had been listening to this conversation, did he begin to suspect what was coming, or was it a bolt out of the blue?

Terrified.

Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. v6



The king and queen stand together.

He is on his own.



In a rage

The king got up in a rage,
left his wine and went out into the palace garden. v7



Perhaps he now realises what Haman had been up to when he asked for a 'small favour' to remove a group of 'trouble-makers'.

Why does he go into the garden – time to think about what to do?

It's all over

But Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, v7

He can see there is no escape.

The king's reaction tells him that his fate is sealed.



Code words

But Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, v7

“he had decided his fate”

כי-כלתה אליו הרעה

H W H Y



Yahweh - LORD

A Desperate Attempt

But Haman ...stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life. v7



What has been done can't be changed.
There is no room for mercy.
He will reap what he has sown.

Bad timing - again.

Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. v8



This is another apparent coincidence. It looks bad to the king, as if Haman is trying to get revenge on her.

What the king thinks.

The king exclaimed,
"Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?" v8

The **AUDACITY** of the man
goes

**BEYOND
LIMITS**

Condemned

As soon as the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. v8



There were the 'usual' security personnel around to quickly arrest and remove Haman.

Excuse me, Sir!

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, v9



Harbona is one of the king's trusted body-guards.

They seem to always know what is happening around.

You may not be aware , sir, but ..

"A gallows seventy-five feet high stands by Haman`s house." v9



Why did he inform
the king about
Haman`s plans?



Just to make matters worse ...

"He had it made for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king." v9



It seems that Harbona
doesn't like Haman.
Servants are aware of the
worst side of their masters



The Proverb fulfilled.

The king said, "Hang him on it!" v10



Proverbs 26:27 Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will come back on him who starts it rolling.

God's justice – the punishment fits the crime.

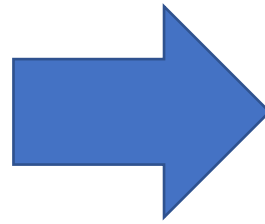
So they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. v10



Proverbs 11:27 Whoever seeks good finds favour, but evil comes to one who searches for it.

Feeling better.

Then the king`s fury subsided. v10



The enemy has gone – but the issue isn't resolved yet.

Completed.



Stage 1

- * Esther has revealed her identity.
- * Haman has been removed – to be replaced!
- * The King is sympathetic to Esther's cause.

The coded message from chapters 2 to 7 reads
“ The LORD, the LORD. I AM the LORD”

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

