

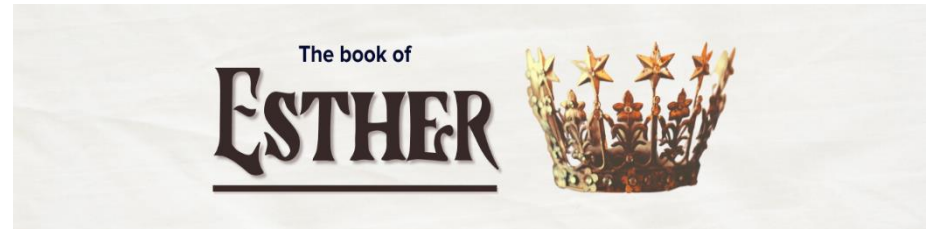


Pray

How does Esther 7 inspire you to pray?
Is there action you need to take?

How can this passage impact the way you pray for yourself
and others?

How does this passage move you to thank and praise God?



The Moment of Truth | Esther 7

Study Guide 7 for sermon on 11/15/2020



Introduction

The moment of truth had come. Would Israel's deadly fate be fulfilled, or would King Ahasuerus grant Esther's request that the Jews would be saved from slaughter?

Esther 7 tells about the second dinner she had prepared for the King and Haman, and her blood pressure must've been through the roof despite the king's earlier promise to grant her request. After all, Haman was a schemer and construction of gigantic gallows had begun earlier that day in front of his house – surely he was up to something!



Overview

Context: Chapter 7 is the central moment of tension in the book. This is where the great reversal takes place. Everything so far has led to this moment and the remainder of the book tells of the salvation and glory for Israel (and Mordecai).

Structure:

- I. Esther reveals Haman's plot against the Jews (vv. 1-6)
- II. The King's judgment upon Haman (vv. 7-10)



Engage

1. King Ahasuerus seems eager for Queen Esther to make her request. Carefully read her request in vv. 3-4 and make a list below of the key statements she makes in order.

2. Why would she start out her response the way she did?

Historical Note: In verse 5, Esther says she would have remained silent if the edict “only” made the Jewish people slaves. The Hebrew words for “destroy” and “enslave” sound very similar. It is possible that when Haman asked for permission to destroy the Jews throughout the kingdom, King Ahasuerus believed they would be enslaved, not destroyed? This would explain both Esther’s comment in verse 5 and why the king is so shocked about the edict’s brutality.

3. What effect does it seem to have that Esther did not immediately point the finger at Haman, but led the King into the realization of the ways Haman has conspired evil behind the king’s back?

4. The wording of the edict was to “destroy, kill, annihilate” (3:13, 7:4). Why would it be worded so repetitively and severely?

5. If you were Haman, and Esther had revealed this news then the king got so angry he left the room; what deluge of thoughts and emotions would flood your mind?

6. Read Proverbs 1:10-19 and discuss parallels between that passage and Haman’s fate in vv. 9-10.

7. What are some ways Haman represents the devil’s schemes to “destroy, kill, and annihilate” the children of God?

8. Describe a time when you had to confront evil or injustice. How was your faith shaped by that experience?

9. When faced by danger, how can this reversal in Esther 7 strengthen our faith in the gospel as we wait for our salvation to be realized?