

Learning to Trust God's Unseen Hand

A Study of Esther

Esther 6:1-13

Lesson #8: Always trust the timing of God.

Verses 1-3

- The unstated reason for the king's insomnia was God's providence. To pass the sleepless night, servants brought the royal annals where Mordecai's deed of saving the king was read (see 2:19–23).¹
- The kings of the great ancient empires always kept annals of their reigns. Apparently the king delighted in hearing the records of his own reign.²

Verses 4-6

- It is quite odd that Mordecai was on the mind of both Xerxes and Haman, and both had their own opinion as to what should be done to him.
- Who was right? God was. He knew how to bring the actions of all involved to bring about Glory for His name. I would rather not quote you Romans 8:28, but rather Genesis 12:2-3. See also John 11:4. *Read from Piper, "Brothers, We are Not Professionals," pp 6-9.* When He was on the cross, He was on His mind. More on this later.

Verses 7-9

- Haman was only ultimately concerned with Haman. So when asked of how the King should honor the person whom the King delights, Haman immediately thought of what he would have wanted.
- Selfish desire nearly always supersedes common sense. Haman had not yet asked about the death sentence for Mordecai because he was so caught up in his own honor.
- To be given a royal robe previously worn by the king was a sign of great honor and the king's favor. Herodotus, the fifth century B.C. Greek historian, who is known as "the Father of History," and who wrote chiefly about the Persian Wars, stated that the kings of Persia had horses of remarkable beauty and of peculiar breed that were brought from Armenia. To ride a horse that the king had ridden was almost as great an honor as to sit upon his throne; almost, but not quite. Assyrian reliefs depict the practice of setting crown-like headdresses on horses, so it's more likely that the royal crest—or royal

¹ Kenneth A. Mathews, "The Historical Books," in *Holman Concise Bible Commentary*, ed. David S. Dockery (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998), 196.

² Mervin Breneman, *Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*, electronic ed., vol. 10, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1993), 343.

crown—was headdress that was put upon the horse, thereby denoting that the rider was on a horse that the king rode.³

Verses 10-13

- Finally, we get to see the humiliation generated by Haman's conceit.
- Haman's wife and advisers give voice to the belief that the Jewish people were indomitable and, perhaps, even to the view that their God was the living God. See the predictions about the fall of Amalek before Israel (Ex. 17:16; Num. 24:20; Deut. 25:17–19; 1 Sam. 15; 2 Sam. 1:8–16; cf. Dan. 6:26, 27; Josh. 2:11; 9:9; Ezek. 38:23).⁴

I. The timing of God does not operate by humanity's schedules...or practices.

- A. All that took place in chapter 6, through verse 10 happened in the dead of night.
- B. Other notable events that did not operate by humanity's schedule: birth of Christ, the woman at the well, the room for the last supper.
- C. Proverbs 21:1.

II. God's timing involves details that you will never know.

- A. God's glory is the precise reason why we should trust His timing. If He is all about Himself, then so too are His promises!
- B. The reason why Romans 8:28 works is because He will be glorified. Trust His timing, because it is He who made it work in the first place!
- C. Stewardship: Based on Psalm 24:1, would be something like this: Biblical stewardship can be defined as handling all of God's blessings, in God's ways, for God's glory!
- D. The bottom line: Trust Him! He knows what He is doing!

III. The true believer should never worry about God's timing, it will always be mutually beneficial.

- A. If God loves His glory, then He will protect that which will bring Him glory. Everything related to eternal life points back to God, but benefits us:
 - 1. Salvation: Grace through faith...not of works.
 - 2. Heaven: The groom's responsibility.
 - 3. Church: Tell others about Jesus.
- B. That is a foundational concept of biblical "covenants:" mutually beneficial to one another. I taught a word on Sunday night...egalitarianism (the unbiblical view of

³ James M. Freeman and Harold J. Chadwick, *Manners & Customs of the Bible* (North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos Publishers, 1998), 298–299.

⁴ R. C. Sproul, ed., *The Reformation Study Bible: English Standard Version* (Orlando, FL; Lake Mary, FL: Ligonier Ministries, 2005), 686.

equality). The opposite of that word is complementarian (created for one another). Husbands and wives mutually benefit from marriage because they complement one another.