

Esther's First Banquet | 5:1-8

- Verse 1 –
 - In 4:16, Esther had requested fasting for **three days, night or day**.
 - The Hebrew day begins at sunset, thus night comes before day.
 - Esther now appears **on the third day**, which is the final day of the fast.
- Verse 2 - Compare to 5:11 where the same word is used of Haman, who brags that he has been **advanced** by the King.
- Verse 3 – **half of the kingdom**
 - Regardless of the fact that Esther has not been called for 30 days or more, the fondness of the King toward her is evident.
 - This is believed by some to be a figure of speech, where "the kingdom" represents the income of the Kingdom for one year. The same words are used by Herod in Mark 6:23.
- Verse 4 - There are four places in the book of Esther where the covenant name of God (YHWH) is "hidden" within the text. This is the second place (1:20, 5:4, 5:13, 7:7).

Haman's Hatred | 5:9-14

- Verse 9 - Mordecai has not backed off his original position, even in the face of death.
- Verses 11-13 - Do not be fooled into thinking this is merely petulance and selfish indignation. This kind of behavior is fueled only by the strongest kind of hate: *antisemitism*.
- Verse 13 – **availeth me nothing** - There are four places in the book of Esther where the covenant name of God (YHWH) is "hidden" within the text. This is the third place (1:20, 5:4, 5:13, 7:7).
- Verse 14 – **gallows** - The Hebrew word is simply "tree" or "stake." Compare to Acts 10:39.

The King's Insomnia | 6:1-9

- Verse 1 –
 - This is one of the many providential acts of God on behalf of the chosen nation.
 - This is also God works on behalf of the Jews when they are out of fellowship with Him: *His work is behind the scenes, never miraculous*.
 - Often, as here, God's providential work is through small things. The fact that God can use the insomnia of a King should be welcome news to any believer of any age.
- Verse 3 –
 - Had Mordecai expected some sort of honor when the incident first occurred, he would have missed out on this greater blessing.
 - Haman will show the opposite of Mordecai's humility in v. 6 and following.

- One would do well to allow honor to come at the hand of others and not try to orchestrate such honor.
- Verse 6 - Two good principles:
 - Always think humbly of yourself.
 - Always question your assumptions.

Mordecai's Honor | 6:10-14

- Verse 10 –
 - It is here known by the King that Mordecai is a Jew.
 - As seen in chapter 7, Ahaseurus does not know that his edict was set to kill the Jews (thinking it was only to those who would not obey the laws of the Kingdom).

The Truth Revealed | 7:1-10

- Verse 2 - All along, the king has known that the queen has a request.
- Verse 4 – **the enemy could not countervail...** That is, "such a matter would not be big enough to disturb the king."
- Verse 5 - Here the king is about to discover that he has been tricked and his authority has been used.
- Verse 7 – **there was evil determined against him** – There are four places in the book of Esther where the covenant name of God (YHWH) is "hidden" within the text. This is the fourth place (1:20, 5:4, 5:13, 7:7).
- Verse 8 - Archeological expeditions have verified the historical accuracy of descriptions of the palace in the book of Esther.