

CHECKMATE
Sermon Outline — Esther 7
Sermon Series: Esther — For Such A Time As This
November 27, 2022
Kelly Stanley

- + *Esther 7:1-2*, “So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ²And on the second day, as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king again said to Esther, “What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled. ³Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be granted me for my wish, and my people for my request. ⁴For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have been silent, for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king” (ESV).
- + *Esther 3:13*, “Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods” (ESV).
- + *Esther 7:5-7*, “Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has dared to do this?” ⁶“And Esther said, “A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.” ⁷And the king arose in his wrath from the wine-drinking and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that harm was determined against him by the king” (ESV).
- Here is a bit of trivia Ezra, the writer does here. I have told you that God is never mentioned in the Book of Esther. The final consonants of the four consecutive Hebrew words translated “that harm was determined against him” when read backward as an acrostic spell out the proper name of God, _____.¹
- + *Esther 7:8*, “And the king returned from the palace garden to the place where they were drinking wine, as Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. And the king said, “Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?” (ESV).
- The Hebrew word translated as “falls” is [נָפַל, nofel] and it can mean “to fall by accident; to lie down; to prostrate oneself.” In other words, when the king reenters the banquet hall Haman is caught in the very act of falling—somewhere between standing upright and lying on Queen Esther’s couch.²
 - The king assumes that Haman is _____ the queen either to take her life violently or to rape her.³
 - Persian law stated that no man was allowed within “_____” (_____ feet) of any member of the king’s harem. In fact, that law also held that touching the king’s wife was punishable by _____.⁴
- + *Esther 7:8c*, “As the word left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman's face” (ESV).
- Why did they cover Haman’s face? Persian law stated that a condemned man was no longer worthy to be looked upon or to look upon others. So, Haman’s face was covered immediately, indicating that he was _____.⁵
 - According to Herodotus, a Greek historian living around the same time, Persian law required that before a person could be condemned to death, at least two serious accusations were required against that person before they could be convicted and put to death. Did King Xerxes have that? Yes! The first accusation was Haman’s plot to kill the Jews -- which could be shown to be a direct threat against the _____. The second accusation was what appeared to be Haman’s own _____ and/or the fact he _____ in coming more than 7 spaces within the queen’s presence.⁶
- + *Esther 7:9-10*, “Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Moreover, the gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, is standing at Haman's house,

¹ A. B. Luter, A. B., & B.C. Davis, *Ruth & Esther: God Behind The Seen*, p. 293.

² A. B. Luter, A. B., & B.C. Davis, *Ruth & Esther: God Behind The Seen*, p. 293.

³ Brown, Driver, and Briggs, *A Hebrew and English Lexicon*, p. 461; R. Laird Harris, Ed., Gleason L. Archer, Jr., & Bruce K. Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, Vol. 1, p. 430.

⁴ Anthony Tomasino, *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Esther*, p. 496.

⁵ Stephen Davey, *Wisdom Commentary Series*, “Esther,” p. 105.

⁶ Stephen Davey, *Wisdom Commentary Series*, “Esther,” p. 105.

fifty cubits high.” ¹⁰So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king abated” (ESV).

What Can We Learn & Apply To Our Lives From This?

1. God often allows us to take _____ steps forward and then allows something to force us to take _____ step back to make us _____ and _____.
 - + *Acts 4:8-13*, Peter said to the Jewish council, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. ¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus” (ESV).

2. God often uses _____ things and/or people to _____.
 - + *Deuteronomy 23:1*, “If a man has chosen to be or is forced to be a eunuch, he must not enter the assembly of the Lord” (PAR).
 - + *1 Corinthians 1:27-29*, “But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God” (ESV).

3. God often puts us through great _____ before providing _____ in order to grow our _____ and _____.
 - God is less concerned about our _____ as He is about our _____.
 - + *John 16:33*, Jesus said, “In this unbelieving world you will experience trouble and sorrows, but you must be courageous, for I have conquered the world” (TPT).
 - + *Hebrews 11:36-38*, Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. ³⁷Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. ³⁸They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground” (NLT).
 - God is less concerned about us having a _____ life and more concerned about us having a _____ life.
 - + *Romans 8:29a*, “For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him—and all along He knew who would—should become like His Son” (TLB).
 - God is less concerned about your _____ and more concerned about your _____.
 - God is less concerned in delivering us _____ the challenges of life as He is in developing us _____ the challenges of life.
 - When people look at you and your character, do they say, “He or she is a lot like _____”?

4. To those who submit to God’s _____, God offers a special _____.
 - + *John 15:4-5*, Jesus said, “So you must remain in life-union with Me, for I remain in life-union with you. For as a branch severed from the vine will not bear fruit, so your life will be fruitless unless you live your life intimately joined to Mine. ⁵“I am the sprouting vine and you’re my branches. As you live in union with Me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you—but when you live separated, un-partnered from Me, you are powerless” (TPT).
 - + *1 Peter 4:13*, “Be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world” (NLT).
 - This morning, where do you need _____? If God could _____ anything in your life so that your heart would be flooded with hope, what is it?