

THE MOMENT OF TRUTH

Esther 7



SYNOPSIS

The second banquet commences with chapter 7, and after King Xerxes asks Queen Esther to present her real request, we finally see the moment of truth. Esther's ethnicity is finally revealed, and Haman's plan is identified as the devious plan that it is. Queen Esther is trying to imply that Haman is gunning for King Xerxes throne.

The King being drunk with wine, steps outside to clear his head and sober up a little bit, and Haman begs with Queen Esther to spare his life, knowing that the favor he once experienced has now vanished. In his blunder, he falls on top of the queen as King Xerxes happens to re-enter the room.

Haman looks as if he is trying to assault or come upon the Queen, and King Xerxes is furious. On top of that, another servant happens to come in to let the king know that Haman had a fifty-cubit pole erected to execute Mordecai. In a swift decision, the King has Haman executed on it instead.

This is the great reversal and the beginning of the end. This chapter is full of reversals and ironies. It reminds us of the gospel that we have come to believe, particularly when it comes to our adversary, Satan. In the gospel of John, we are told that the enemy comes to kill, steal, and to destroy. Just as Haman came to plunder the Jews and destroy them all, Satan has come to oppose and destroy humanity, specifically the people of God. But our story also has a great reversal. Because of the life that Jesus lived and the death that Jesus died, we are no longer slaves to sin and death, but have now been adopted, justified, reconciled to God.



OUTLINE

1 THE MOMENT OF TRUTH
Esther's ethnicity is revealed. Her request is made known. Haman's devious plan is illuminated. Everything that was in the darkness has now come into the light. And in the light, motivations and intentions are seen more clearly.

2 HAMAN'S QUICK DOWNFALL
From the Persian culture, Esther points to Haman's plan of annihilating the Jews and accuses him of scheming of ownership of the assets of the Jews, for selfish gain of wealth, but also power as well. We also see the irony of the location of the banquet - the harem, which was more than just a place of pleasure, but a sign of the king's dynasty/reign/authority. Some concubines were given to other nations as political alliance. Haman 'falling upon' Esther as King Xerxes comes back into the room could be seen as treason, as if Haman was trying to seize power for himself. We also see the last irony: the pole meant for Mordecai was used to impale Haman. All this happens swiftly as the Great Reversal is set into motion.

3 THE GOSPEL MESSAGE
The Great Reversal reminds us of the gospel message that we've come to believe. Satan has come to kill steal and destroy, but the Greatest Reversal has happened - Christ lived and died so that we might be set free. Here are some passages to remind us of the truth of the gospel: Romans 3:23-24, Romans 5:10, Romans 8:15, Isaiah 54:17, Colossians 2:13-15, Exodus 23:22, 1 Corinthians 15:55-57



kairos
church



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Where and when in your have you recognized God invisibly working behind the scenes? How did you realize God was doing something?

2

Has God ever orchestrated an ironic reversal in your life?

3

How often do you reflect on the narrative of Jesus' gospel? How do you tell that narrative?

4

What does victory over the enemy mean to you?

5

Spend some time reflecting on the truth of the gospel and the demise of the one who had come to kill, steal, and destroy.



BIG IDEA

As darkness comes to the light and motivations and intentions are seen more clearly, we see the course of events happen quickly in the story of Esther. Haman's quick downfall is sealed when "coincidence" after "coincidence" happens one after the other. The Great Reversal finds Haman being executed. In the same way, we know that in the Story of God, the Greatest Reversal has also happened - where the one who has come to kill, steal, and destroy has been defeated and we have been given the right to become children of God - adopted, justified, reconciled, welcomed. May the truth of the gospel also bring us relief, joy, and celebration.

