

6 When **Haman** entered, the king asked him, "What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?" Now **Haman** thought to himself, "Who is there that the king would rather honor than me?"

7 So he answered the king, "For the man the king delights to honor,

8 have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head.

9 Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honor, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!'"

10 "Go at once," the king commanded **Haman**. "Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for **Mordecai** the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended."

11 So **Haman** got the robe and the horse. He robed **Mordecai**, and led him on horseback through the city streets, proclaiming before him, "This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!"

12 Afterward **Mordecai** returned to the king's gate. But **Haman** rushed home, with his head covered in grief,

13 and told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, "Since **Mordecai**, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him--you will surely come to ruin!"

14 While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and hurried **Haman** away to the banquet **Esther** had prepared.

7:1 So the king and **Haman** went to dine with **Queen Esther**,

2 and as they were drinking wine on that second day, the king again asked, "**Queen Esther**, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

3 Then **Queen Esther** answered, "If I have found favor with you, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, grant me my life--this is my petition. And spare my people--this is my request.

4 For I and my people have been sold for destruction and slaughter and annihilation. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king."

5 **King Ahasuerus** asked **Queen Esther**, "Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?"

6 **Esther** said, "The adversary and enemy is this vile **Haman**." Then **Haman** was terrified before the king and queen.

7 The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden. But **Haman**, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg **Queen Esther** for his life.

8 Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, **Haman** was falling on the couch where **Esther** was reclining. The king exclaimed, "Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the

house?" As soon as the word left the king's mouth, they covered **Haman's** face.

9 Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, "A gallows seventy-five feet high stands by **Haman's** house. He had it made for **Mordecai**, who spoke up to help the king." The king said, "Hang him on it!"

10 So they hanged **Haman** on the gallows he had prepared for **Mordecai**. Then the king's fury subsided.

8:1 That same day **King Ahasuerus** gave **Queen Esther** the estate of **Haman**, the enemy of the Jews. And **Mordecai** came into the presence of the king, for **Esther** had told how he was related to her.

2 The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from **Haman**, and presented it to **Mordecai**. And **Esther** appointed him over **Haman's** estate.

3 **Esther** again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of **Haman** the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews.

4 Then the king extended the gold scepter to **Esther** and she arose and stood before him.

5 "If it pleases the king," she said, "and if he regards me with favor and thinks it the right thing to do, and if he is pleased with me, let an order be written overruling the dispatches that **Haman** son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, devised and wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king's provinces.

6 For how can I bear to see disaster fall on my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my family?"