

Esther 5:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.

Analysis

And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. Before revealing his grievance about Mordecai, Haman catalogued his advantages to his wife and friends. The narrative parallels verse 5:11 with slightly different wording, emphasizing how Haman's bragging set up the dramatic contrast with his complaint. Despite enormous success, Mordecai's refusal to bow devastates him. This repetition demonstrates literary technique emphasizing Haman's character: pride that requires constant validation and cannot enjoy blessing when ego is wounded. The tragic irony is that all these blessings—wealth, children, position—will be lost due to pride's destructive trajectory.

Historical Context

The repetition of Haman's boasting (here in 5:11 and earlier recounted to the narrator) creates emphasis showing this was characteristic behavior. Ancient Near Eastern culture valued honor and status, making Haman's recitation of achievements culturally understandable. However, the narrative's ironic presentation reveals that such pride prevents contentment and leads to destruction. The reference to his many sons (specified as ten sons in 9:7-10)

represented particular blessing in ancient culture, yet all would die due to their father's pride. This demonstrates how pride destroys not only the proud but also those connected to them.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Haman's need to constantly rehearse his advantages demonstrate pride's insatiable need for validation?
2. What does the eventual loss of everything he boasted about teach about pride's destructive consequences?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּסֶפֶּר	לֵהָם	וְהָמָן	אֶת	כָּבֹד	וְעֹשֶׁר
told	H1992	And Haman	H853	them of the glory	of his riches
H5608		H2001		H3519	H6239
וְלִבְ	בְּנֵי יוֹ	וְאֵת	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	גָּדַל
and the multitude	of his children	H853	H3605	H834	had promoted
H7230	H1121				H1431
וְהַמְּלָכָה:		וְאֵת	אֲשֶׁר	וְנִשְׂאָה	
and all the things wherein the king		H853	H834	him and how he had advanced	
	H4428			H5375	
עַל	הַשָּׂרִים	וְעַבְדֵי	וְהַמְּלָכָה:		
H5921	him above the princes	and servants	and all the things wherein the king		
	H8269	H5650	H4428		

Additional Cross-References

Esther 3:1 (Kingdom): After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.

1 Timothy 6:17 (Parallel theme): Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

Genesis 31:1 (Glory): And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of that which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org