

# 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

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**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

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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

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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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

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עָשָׂר וּ כְבָד אֶת קְבָד מִיסְפָּר רַב  
of his riches of the glory them of the And Haman told  
H6239 H3519 H853 H2001 H1992  
H5608

גָּדוֹל וּ אֲשֶׁר כָּל אֶת בְּנֵי יִרְבָּב  
had promoted of his children and the multitude told  
H1431 H3605 H834 H853 H1121 H7230

נִשְׁאָר וְ אֲשֶׁר יִאָתֶת בְּמַלְכָה  
him and how he had advanced him and all the things wherein the king  
H5375 H834 H853  
H4428

בְּמַלְכָה: כָּל אֲשֶׁר יִמְשְׁרָר עַל  
and all the things wherein the king and servants him above the princes  
H4428 H5650 H8269 H5921

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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