

Esther 5:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.

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, Haman catalogued his blessings: wealth, many children (sign of blessing in ancient cultures), royal promotion, and elevation above all other officials. This recitation of advantages makes his subsequent complaint about Mordecai's disrespect seem petty. The narrative technique exposes Haman's character: despite enormous success and honor, one man's refusal to bow devastates him. This reveals pride's insatiable nature—no achievement satisfies when ego is wounded. The contrast between Haman's vast advantages and his misery over one slight demonstrates that pride prevents enjoyment of genuine blessings.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern culture valued wealth, children, and status as primary measures of success and divine favor. Haman's catalogue includes precisely these markers. Having "multitude of children" was particularly significant—sons provided legacy, security, and honor. His promotion "above the princes and servants of the king" meant only Ahasuerus himself outranked him. By any standard, Haman had achieved extraordinary success. Yet Mordecai's refusal to bow poisoned all this blessing. This demonstrates the biblical truth that pride and

covetousness prevent contentment regardless of circumstances. Haman's ten sons (9:7-10) will all die, showing how pride destroys even legitimate blessings.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Haman's inability to enjoy enormous blessings because of one slight illustrate pride's poisonous effects?
2. What does this teach about how contentment depends on internal character rather than external circumstances?

Interlinear Text

וְכָל	זֶה	אֵין	נֹהֵךְ	שֶׁנִּי	לִי	בְּכָל	עַתָּה
H3605	H2088	H369			H0	H3605	
				Yet all this availeth	me nothing so long as		
				H7737	H6256		

אֲנִי	רֹאֶה	אֶת	מֶרְדֵּכַי	הַיְּהוּדִי	יֹשֵׁב	בַּשַּׁעַר
H834	H589		H853			
	I see		Mordecai	the Jew	sitting	gate
	H7200		H4782	H3064	H3427	H8179

הַמֶּלֶךְ:
at the king's
H4428