

Esther 6:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

Analysis

Sleepless night: **'On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king'**. The king's insomnia on the precise night needed for Mordecai's honor and Haman's exposure demonstrates God's providence. That he chose to read chronicles (rather than entertainment) and that they read specifically the account of Mordecai's discovery of the assassination plot (Esther 2:21-23) shows divine orchestration of apparently random events. God governs even sleep patterns and reading choices to accomplish redemptive purposes. This 'coincidence' became pivot point for reversal of Haman's plot.

Historical Context

Ancient kings kept official chronicles recording significant events. Persian royal annals documented both great deeds and potential threats, creating historical record. That Ahasuerus couldn't sleep 'on that night'—the night before Haman planned to request Mordecai's execution—shows remarkable timing. That he happened to hear about Mordecai's unrewarded service at precisely this moment positioned Mordecai for honor and exposed Haman's plot. Jewish tradition recognizes this as divine intervention—God keeping the king awake and directing his attention to precisely the right record. Providence works through insomnia and administrative records.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's governance of the king's sleeplessness demonstrate His sovereignty over details we might consider trivial?
2. What does this teach about recognizing divine providence in seemingly random circumstances?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	הַמֶּלֶךְ׃	שָׁנָת	נָדַד ה	הָהּ וְא	בַּלְיָה
and he commanded	the king	sleep	could not		On that night
H559	H4428	H8142	H5074	H1931	H3915
וְהָיָה	הַיּוֹם י	דִּבְרֵי י	הַזְכָּרֹנוֹת	סֵפֶר	אֶת לָהֶב יֵא
H1961	H3117	of the chronicles	of records	the book	to bring
	H1697		H2146	H5612	H935
הַמֶּלֶךְ׃	לִפְנֵי י	נִקְרָא יִם			
the king	before	and they were read			
H4428	H6440	H7121			

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 6:18 (Kingdom): Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

Daniel 2:1 (Kingdom): And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

Esther 2:23 (Kingdom): And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.

Isaiah 41:17 (Parallel theme): When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

Romans 11:33 (Parallel theme): O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

Genesis 22:14 (Parallel theme): And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

Esther 10:2 (Kingdom): And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?

Malachi 3:16 (Parallel theme): Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Esther 5:8 (Kingdom): If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.