

# Esther 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

## Analysis

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**Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.** The revelation stuns: the king commands Haman to honor not Haman himself but "Mordecai the Jew"—Haman's personal enemy whom he came to request permission to execute. The irony is devastating: Haman must personally perform the honor he designed for himself, bestowing it instead on his mortal enemy. The king's command "let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken" ensures Haman cannot minimize the honor—he must execute his own elaborate plan fully, honoring the man he hates. The phrase "Mordecai the Jew" emphasizes the ethnic identity that motivated Haman's genocidal plot. God's providence creates this perfect reversal: Haman honors the Jew while his decree to destroy all Jews stands—demonstrating how quickly God can elevate His people and humble their enemies.

## Historical Context

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The king's command created impossible dilemma for Haman: refusing meant defying royal authority, but complying meant public humiliation. Persian court protocol required absolute obedience to royal commands. Haman had no choice but to proceed despite the devastating irony. The public nature of the honor—

parading Mordecai through the city while proclaiming his favor—would be witnessed by thousands, including Jews who knew of the extermination decree. The juxtaposition of honoring one Jew while planning to exterminate all Jews would have created confusion and perhaps hope among the Jewish community. Archaeological evidence of Persian royal protocols confirms elaborate public honors including ceremonial robes, royal horses, and public proclamations.

## **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 the irony of Haman honoring Mordecai demonstrate God's sovereignty in reversing circumstances and humbling the proud?
2. What does this reversal teach about how quickly God can elevate His people and bring down their enemies?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר	הִמָּלֵךְ	לְהָמָן	מִהֵר	קַח	אֶת	הַלְבָּשׁ
said	Then the king	to Haman	Make haste	and take	H853	the apparel
H559	H4428	H2001	H4116	H3947		H3830
וְאֵת	הַסּוּס	כָּאֵשׁ	דִּבַּרְתָּ:	וַעֲשֵׂה	כֵּן	
H853	and the horse	H834	as thou hast said	and do	H3651	
	H5483		H1696	H6213		
לְמֹרְדֵכַי	הַיְּהוּדִי	הַיֹּשֵׁב	בֵּשַׁע	הִמָּלֵךְ	אֶל	
even so to Mordecai	the Jew	that sitteth	gate	Then the king	H408	
H4782	H3064	H3427	H8179	H4428		
לִפְּלֹאֲלָה	דָּבָר	מִכָּל	אֵשׁ	דִּבַּרְתָּ:		
fail	let nothing	H3605	H834	as thou hast said		
H5307	H1697			H1696		

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