

Esther 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

Analysis

Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour. Haman executed the very honor ceremony he had designed for himself, instead bestowing it on his mortal enemy. The verse emphasizes Haman's personal involvement—"Haman...arrayed Mordecai" and led the horse while proclaiming Mordecai's honor. The public nature—"through the street of the city"—meant thousands witnessed Haman honoring the Jew while Haman's decree to exterminate all Jews stood. The proclamation "Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour" announced royal favor for Mordecai precisely when Haman planned his execution. This reversal demonstrates God's power to transform circumstances completely and suddenly.

Historical Context

The public procession through Shushan created spectacle witnessed by Jewish and Persian populations. For Jews, seeing Mordecai honored while facing genocide would have created hope. For Persians, it signaled the king favored this Jew, making the extermination decree problematic. The personal humiliation of Haman—reduced from honored guest to horse-leader and herald—would have been

devastating in honor-shame culture. Ancient sources describe similar honors bestowed by Near Eastern monarchs, including royal robes, horses, public proclamation, and ceremonial processions. The irony of Haman proclaiming Mordecai's honor while the gallows he built for Mordecai stood ready demonstrates how quickly God can reverse circumstances.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Haman's forced participation in honoring his enemy illustrate how God can turn evil intent into instruments of blessing?
2. What does this public reversal teach about God's power to transform circumstances suddenly and completely?

Interlinear Text

אֶת	וּלְבָשׁ	הַסּוֹס	וְאֶת	הַלְבָּשׁ וְשׁ	אֶת הָמָן	וְקָח
H853	H3847	H5483	H853	H3830	H2001	H3947
and arrayed	and the horse	the apparel	Haman	Then took		
אֶת הָעִיר	בְּרַח וּב	וּדְכִיּוֹ הוּא	מֵרֶדְכָּי			
H5892	H7339	H7392	H4782			
of the city	through the street	and brought him on horseback	Mordecai			
וְאִישׁ רַ	לְאִישׁ	יַעֲשֶׂה ה	כִּי כֹה	לִפְנֵי י	וְקָרָא	
H834	H376	H6213	H3602	H6440	H7121	
unto the man	him Thus shall it be done	before	and proclaimed			
בִּיקְרוֹ:	דָּפַץ	הֵם לָר				
H3366	H2654	H4428				
to honour	delighteth	whom the king				

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:52 (Parallel theme): He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

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