

# Esther 6:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.

## Analysis

**And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.** Haman reported his humiliation to wife and friends who had advised building the gallows (5:14). Their response is remarkable: they recognize that Mordecai's Jewish identity means Haman "shalt surely fall before him." This acknowledgment of Jewish divine protection from pagans demonstrates widespread awareness of Israel's God defending His people. The phrase "thou hast begun to fall" recognizes the reversal has commenced and will continue to completion. Their prophecy proves accurate—within hours, Haman will be executed. Zeresh's wisdom comes too late; the counsel to build gallows set irreversible destruction in motion.

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern peoples recognized various nations' patron deities and their power to protect their people. Zeresh and Haman's advisors apparently knew enough Jewish history—Exodus deliverance, conquest victories, exile survival—to recognize that opposing Jews meant facing their God. This awareness appears

elsewhere in Scripture (Exodus 15:14-16; Joshua 2:9-11; Daniel 6:26-27). The statement "thou shalt surely fall" uses emphatic Hebrew construction indicating certainty. That even Haman's closest associates recognized his doom demonstrates how clearly God's hand had turned against him. Their earlier advice (5:14) set his destruction in motion; their current advice recognizes it's too late to prevent.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does even pagan recognition of divine protection for Jews demonstrate God's reputation among nations?
2. What does the too-late wisdom teach about the consequences of pride-driven decisions that cannot be undone?

## Interlinear Text

רִיסֶפֶת	אֵת	אֶת	וְ	בָּמִ	רֶשֶׁת	וְאֶשְׁתָּו	וְלֹכֶל	וְאֶתְבָּבָה	וְאֶתְבָּבָה
<b>told</b>	<b>And Haman</b>	<b>Zeresh</b>	<b>his wife</b>	H3605	<b>and all his friends</b>		H853		H3605
H5608	H2001	H2238	H802			H157			

רָאשׁ	הַזְּבָחָה	אָמַר	לֹזֶן	חֲכָמִים	רֵשֶׁת
H834	<b>every thing that had befallen</b>	<b>him Then said</b>	H0	<b>his wise men</b>	<b>Zeresh</b>

אֲשֶׁת	וְ	מִזְבֵּחַ	בְּעֵד	יְהוָה	מִרְדָּכָא	אֲשֶׁר
his wife	H518	be of the seed	of the Jews	unto him	If Mordecai	
H802		H2233		H3064		H4782

לֹא	לִפְנֵי	תֵּפֶל וְלִ	בְּחֵל וְתִּ	whom thou hast begun
	H3808	H5307	H2490	against him but shalt surely

תַּעֲלֹם	לִי	לְתַעֲלֵם
thou shalt not prevail	H0	H3588

לפָנָיו	before
תַּפְנִים וְלִפְנֵי	against him but shalt surely

## Additional Cross-References

**Proverbs 28:18** (Parallel theme): Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.

**Hosea 14:9** (Parallel theme): Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

**Genesis 40:19** (Parallel theme): Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee.

**Genesis 41:8** (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.

**Daniel 2:12** (Parallel theme): For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

**Job 16:2** (Parallel theme): I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all.

**Job 15:24** (Parallel theme): Trouble and anguish shall make him afraid; they shall prevail against him, as a king ready to the battle.

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