

Esther 6:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.

Analysis

And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him. Ahasuerus asked what reward Mordecai received, and the servants confirmed he received nothing. The question implies royal expectation that life-saving service should be rewarded. The servants' answer "There is nothing done for him" exposed the oversight. This unrewarded service becomes the mechanism of providential reversal. The king's determination to immediately honor Mordecai will collide with Haman's request to execute him, creating the dramatic confrontation that seals Haman's doom. The delayed gratitude transforms from oversight to opportunity—rewarding Mordecai now, when Haman plots against him, creates maximum impact and dramatic irony.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern monarchs typically rewarded subjects who provided significant service, especially saving the king's life. Rewards included money, land, titles, and positions. That Mordecai went unrewarded for years suggests administrative oversight or perhaps insufficient royal attention at the time. The discovery of this unrewarded service came at the pivotal moment—the night before Haman planned to request Mordecai's execution. The timing demonstrates providence: had Mordecai been rewarded earlier, the later dramatic reversal

wouldn't have occurred. God's timing, though sometimes delayed from human perspective, proves perfect for maximum redemptive impact.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the unrewarded service becoming the mechanism of deliverance demonstrate that God's timing, though sometimes delayed, proves ultimately perfect?
2. What does this teach about trusting God's timing in recognizing and rewarding faithful service, even when immediate acknowledgment doesn't come?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר ו	הַמֶּלֶךְ לְךָ	מָה	נַעֲשֶׂה ה	יְקָר	וְגִדּוֹלָה ה
for this Then said	And the king	H4100	done	What honour	and dignity
H559	H4428		H6213	H3366	H1420
לְמֹרְדֵכַי	עַל	זֶה	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	נַעֲבֵד י	הַמֶּלֶךְ לְךָ
to Mordecai	H5921	H2088	for this Then said	servants	And the king
H4782			H559	H5288	H4428
					that ministered
					H8334
לֹא	נַעֲשֶׂה ה	עִמּוֹ	דָּבָר:		
H3808	done	H5973	unto him There is nothing		
	H6213		H1697		

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 9:15 (Parallel theme): Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man.

Genesis 40:23 (Parallel theme): Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.

1 Chronicles 11:6 (Parallel theme): And David said, Whosoever smiteth the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain. So Joab the son of Zeruiah went first up, and was chief.

Daniel 5:7 (Kingdom): The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:16 (Kingdom): And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:29 (Kingdom): Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.