

Esther 6:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king
delighteth to honour,

Analysis

And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, Haman begins his response with the exact phrase the king used, creating dramatic tension. The threefold repetition of "whom the king delighteth to honour" (verses 6, 7, 9, 11) emphasizes the reversal theme. The Hebrew construction with the participle "delighteth" (chafetz, יִחַד) indicates ongoing royal pleasure, not temporary whim.

This verse serves as a literary hinge, suspending the narrative between Haman's question in verse 6 and his elaborate proposal in verses 8-9. The brief statement prolongs dramatic irony—the reader knows Haman's fantasy is about to become his nightmare. The formal protocol of Persian address required such preambles, but the repetition of the king's exact words reveals Haman savoring what he assumes is his moment of glory. Providence turns human pride into the instrument of divine justice.

Historical Context

Persian court protocol demanded elaborate formality in addressing the king. Royal audiences followed strict patterns: waiting for royal recognition, repeating key phrases from the king's question, and structuring responses according to hierarchical conventions. Courtiers competed for royal favor through flattery, conspicuous service, and positioning themselves for rewards. Haman, as second-in-command (3:1), had reached the pinnacle of secular success—yet his pride

demanded more. The protocol of repeating the king's phrase "whom the king delighteth to honour" reflects documented Persian court language emphasizing the king's personal pleasure and will as the source of all favor and authority.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can we guard against Haman's assumption that God's questions or opportunities are about our advancement?
2. What does this dramatic irony teach about God's hidden timing in circumstances that seem to favor the wicked?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	הָמָן	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אֵשֶׁר	אֶשְׁרֵי	הַמֶּלֶךְ
answered	And Haman		the king	For the man		the king
H559	H2001	H413	H4428	H376	H834	H4428
חֲפֵצַּי	בִּיקְרוֹ:					
delighteth	to honour					
H2654	H3366					