

Esther 6:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

Analysis

And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, Haman envisions one of the empire's highest officials (sarei hamelekh, שְׂרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, "princes of the king") serving as his attendant. The role reversal Haman imagines—a noble prince attending him—will become crushing reality when he himself must serve Mordecai.

That they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, The Hebrew rehov ha'ir (רְחוֹב הָעִיר, "street of the city") indicates the main thoroughfare of Shushan where maximum public visibility occurs. The procession design ensures empire-wide knowledge of royal favor. **And proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.** The proclamation formula (ko ye'aseh, כֹּה יַעֲשֶׂה, "thus it shall be done") makes this official royal policy, not private favor. The fourfold repetition of "whom the king delighteth to honour" (verses 6, 7, 9, 11) hammers home the theme of divine reversal. Haman designs an honor he will proclaim for his mortal enemy.

Historical Context

Ancient victory processions and honor ceremonies included public proclamation, display of royal symbols, and prominent routing through main streets. Roman triumphal processions, Persian royal entries, and Near Eastern victory parades all featured elaborate public display designed to maximize visibility and establish precedent. The requirement that a noble prince personally lead the honored person elevates the ceremony beyond mere recognition to a demonstration of the empire's hierarchical structure honoring the recipient. Archaeological evidence from Persian reliefs shows similar processions with crowned horses, elaborately dressed figures, and attendants. The street of Shushan would have been the main thoroughfare connecting the royal citadel to the lower city, ensuring both elite and common witnesses to this honor. The public proclamation created official record and prevented later dispute about the king's will.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the elaborate public nature of this honor contrast with Jesus's teaching on humble, private good works (Matthew 6:1-4)?
2. What does Haman's detailed fantasy reveal about how pride misconstrues God's purposes and provisions?

Interlinear Text

וְנָתַן לוֹ	וְהָלַב וְשׁ	וְהַסּוֹס	עַל	יָד	לֹא יֵשׁ	מִשְׁרֵי י
be delivered	And let this apparel	and horse	H5921	to the hand	of one	princes
H5414	H3830	H5483		H3027	H376	H8269
הֵם לְךָ	הַפְּרִתָּם יִם	וְהִלָּב יֵשׁוּ	אֶת	לֹא יֵשׁ		אֲשֶׁר
of the king's	most noble	that they may array	H853	of one		H834
H4428	H6579	H3847		H376		
הֵם לְךָ	חִפּוּ	בִּיקְרוֹ:	וְהִרְכִּיב הוּא	עַל	הַסּוֹס	
of the king's	delighteth	to honour	and bring	H5921	and horse	
H4428	H2654	H3366	H7392		H5483	
בְּרַח וּב	הָעִיר	וְקָרָא ו	לִפְנֵי יו	כָּה		
through the street	of the city	and proclaim	before	H3602		
H7339	H5892	H7121	H6440			
יַעֲשֵׂה ה	אֲשֶׁר לֹא יֵשׁ	הֵם לְךָ	חִפּוּ	בִּיקְרוֹ:		
him Thus shall it be done	of one	of the king's	delighteth	to honour		
H6213	H376	H4428	H2654	H3366		

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 41:43 (Parallel theme): And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.