

# Esther 7:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

## Analysis

**And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.** When the king demanded to know who dared decree the queen's destruction (v. 5), Esther identified Haman: "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman." The threefold description—"adversary" (tsar, צָר), "enemy" (oyev, אוֹיָב), and "wicked" (ra, רָע)—piles up condemnatory terms. Pointing to Haman at the banquet table—the intimate setting where he thought himself honored—created devastating shock. Haman's response: "afraid before the king and queen" demonstrates he immediately recognized his danger. The man who wielded power to decree genocide now trembles before those he had threatened. This reversal demonstrates how quickly pride falls and power dissolves when God moves.

## Historical Context

The banquet setting made Haman's unmasking particularly dramatic. He had attended two feasts thinking himself specially honored (5:12), only to discover he was being set up for exposure and judgment. Ancient Near Eastern banquets created obligations of hospitality and protection—violating a guest was serious offense. Yet Haman had violated the queen herself through his decree, superseding any protection the banquet setting might provide. His fear was justified—kings dealt harshly with threats to the royal family, and Haman's decree threatened not

only the queen but exposed the king to potential guilt for authorizing his wife's murder.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does Haman's sudden reversal from honored guest to condemned enemy illustrate how quickly God can overthrow the proud and powerful?
2. What does the banquet setting teach about how divine justice sometimes operates through ironic reversals in the very places enemies feel secure?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵת אָמֵר	אָמֵת	רַ	אֵת	אֵשׁ	אֵרֶץ	בְּ	אֹוֹבֶן	וְבָתְמַן	וְבָתְמַן	וְבָתְמַן
said	And Esther	The adversary		H6862	and enemy	Haman	is this wicked			
H559	H635	H376			H341	H2001	H7451			
וְהַמְלָכָה:	מֶלֶךְ	לְהַ	נִבְעַת	וְבָתְמַן	וְהַמְלָכָה:	the king	and the queen			
H2088	Haman	was afraid	before	H6440	H4428	H4436				
	H2001	H1204								

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Thessalonians 2:8** (Evil): And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: