

Esther 7:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.

Analysis

And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon. Harbonah informed the king about Haman's 75-foot gallows prepared for Mordecai. The revelation that Mordecai—who saved the king's life (2:21-23; 6:2)—was Haman's intended victim added to the outrage. Harbonah's mention of Mordecai having "spoken good for the king" emphasized this injustice. The king's immediate command "Hang him thereon" sealed Haman's fate with perfect poetic justice—execution on his own gallows. This fulfills Proverbs 26:27: "Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein." The instrument of intended murder becomes the means of the murderer's judgment.

Historical Context

Harbonah, one of the seven eunuchs who served the king (1:10), apparently knew about both the gallows and Mordecai's service. His intervention suggests palace officials recognized Haman's injustice and seized opportunity to expose it. The 50-cubit (75-foot) height made the gallows highly visible from the palace, explaining Harbonah's knowledge. That execution occurred immediately demonstrates

Persian justice's swift nature once the king decided. Archaeological evidence shows ancient Near Eastern executions could proceed very rapidly after condemnation, particularly for high-profile cases threatening the king or royal family.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Haman's execution on his own gallows demonstrate divine justice's perfect irony and poetic nature?
2. What does Harbonah's intervention teach about how God uses multiple human agents to accomplish His purposes?

Psalms 141:10 (Parallel theme): Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst that I withal escape.

Daniel 6:24 (Kingdom): And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

Psalms 73:19 (Parallel theme): How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

1 Samuel 17:51 (Parallel theme): Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

Daniel 6:7 (Kingdom): All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

Esther 6:14 (Kingdom): And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hasted to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

Esther 9:25 (Kingdom): But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.