

Esther 8:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her.

Analysis

On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her. Following Haman's execution, the king immediately transferred Haman's estate to Esther and summoned Mordecai. The designation "Haman the Jews' enemy" emphasizes the conflict's ethnic-religious nature. Transferring executed traitors' property to victims was common ancient practice, both punishing the criminal's family and compensating victims. Esther revealing Mordecai's relationship ("what he was unto her")—her adoptive father and guardian—explains his summons. This verse begins reversing the decree's effects: Haman is dead, his property confiscated, and Mordecai gains access to the king. Yet the larger crisis remains—the immutable decree threatening all Jews still stands.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern law often confiscated executed criminals' property, redistributing it to victims or the crown. Haman's "house" included not just buildings but all property, wealth, and resources. This confiscation punished Haman's family (his wife Zeresh and ten sons) and compensated Esther. Revealing Mordecai's relationship to Esther publicly connected the honored official (chapter 6) to the queen, further elevating his status. Archaeological evidence shows Persian administrative practices included recording property transfers, making

such confiscations official and legal. The same day execution and property transfer demonstrates swift ancient justice.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the immediate confiscation of Haman's property demonstrate that divine justice addresses both the perpetrator and reverses the effects of evil?
2. What does Esther's revelation of her relationship to Mordecai teach about the right timing for disclosure?

Interlinear Text

הַמֶּלֶךְ הַ	אֶסְתֵּר רַ	אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ	הָמֶלֶךְ לָךְ	נָתַן	הָהּ וְאֵ	בֵּי יוֹם
the queen	for Esther	Ahasuerus	did the king	give		On that day
H4436	H635	H325	H4428	H5414	H1931	H3117
לִפְנֵי יָ	בָּ אֶ	וּמֹרְדֵכַי יֶ	הַיְּהוּדִים יִים	צֵר רַ	הָמֶן	בֵּית יֶת
before	came	And Mordecai	the Jews	enemy	of Haman	the house
H6440	H935	H4782	H3064	H6887	H2001	H1004
לָהּ:	הוּא	מֶה	אֶסְתֵּר רַ	הָגִידָהּ	כִּי	הָמֶלֶךְ לָךְ
H0	H1931	H4100	for Esther	had told	H3588	did the king
			H635	H5046		H4428

Additional Cross-References

Esther 2:7 (Parallel theme): And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

Proverbs 13:22 (Parallel theme): A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

Esther 2:15 (Kingdom): Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

Psalms 39:6 (Parallel theme): Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.

Luke 12:20 (Parallel theme): But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Esther 7:6 (Kingdom): And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.