

Esther 8:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.

Analysis

Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews. The king's response reminded Esther and Mordecai of actions already taken: Haman's execution and property confiscation. The phrase "because he laid his hand upon the Jews" suggests the king understood and condemned Haman's plot—though the king himself had authorized it (3:10-11). This statement allows the king to reframe the narrative: not "I authorized genocide against your people" but "Haman plotted against the Jews." This face-saving reframing demonstrates political reality—the king maintains dignity while correcting his error. Providence works even through such moral complexity and political maneuvering to achieve deliverance.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern monarchs, like modern politicians, often reframed past decisions to maintain authority and dignity. The king's statement portrayed Haman as sole villain despite royal authorization. This wasn't necessarily dishonest—the king likely genuinely believed Haman had manipulated him through misleading information (3:8-9). Ancient honor-shame cultures made admitting error extremely difficult for authority figures. The king's explanation gave him path to correct the

situation without explicitly confessing fault. This political reality, though morally complex, became means of achieving the necessary outcome—imperial support for reversing the genocide decree.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the king's reframing demonstrate that achieving just outcomes sometimes requires accepting political face-saving rather than demanding full acknowledgment of fault?
2. What does this teach about working within imperfect systems and complex moral realities to achieve redemptive purposes?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	הָמֶלֶךְ	אֶחָשֶׁוֹרֶשׁ	לְאֶסְתֵּר	הַמַּלְכָּה	וּלְמֹרְדֵכַי
said	Then the king	Ahasuerus	Esther	the queen	and to Mordecai
H559	H4428	H325	H635	H4436	H4782
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בְּהוֹדִיִּים:	הִנֵּה	בֵּית	הָמָן	נָתַתִּי	לְאֶסְתֵּר
the Jew		the house	of Haman	Behold I have given	Esther
H3064	H2009	H1004	H2001	H5414	H635
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וְאֵתוֹ	וְהֵלְכֵם	עַל	הָעֵץ	עַל	אֲשֶׁר
	and him they have hanged		upon the gallows		
H853	H8518	H5921	H6086	H5921	H834
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שָׁלַח	יָדוֹ	בְּהוֹדִיִּים:			
because he laid	his hand	the Jew			
H7971	H3027	H3064			

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