

# Esther 9:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.** This summary verse recapitulates the reversal: Esther's intercession led to Haman's own plot destroying him and his sons. The phrase "his wicked device...should return upon his own head" expresses perfect poetic justice—evil rebounds on evildoers (Psalms 7:15-16; 9:15; Proverbs 26:27). Haman and his ten sons hanged on the gallows he built demonstrates comprehensive judgment. This verse emphasizes the reversal theme central to Purim: God turns enemy plots against His people back on the plotters themselves, transforming intended destruction into judgment on destroyers.

## Historical Context

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The execution of Haman's ten sons (v. 7-10) along with Haman himself (7:10) demonstrates ancient practice of punishing not just perpetrators but their families, preventing blood feuds and eliminating potential avengers. While troubling to modern sensibilities, this practice reflected ancient understanding of corporate guilt and preventing ongoing cycles of vengeance. The phrase "should return upon his own head" became proverbial for divine justice. Archaeological and textual

evidence shows ancient Near Eastern executions sometimes included perpetrators' families, particularly for crimes threatening the king or state. The comprehensive judgment demonstrated that God's justice was thorough, protecting His people from future threats.

## Related Passages

## Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

## **Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth**

## Study Questions

1. How does the reversal of Haman's plot to destroy his own family demonstrate the biblical principle that those who plot evil against God's people bring judgment on themselves?
2. What does this comprehensive justice teach about God's thoroughness in protecting His people from threats and potential future dangers?

## Interlinear Text

וְבָאָה	לִפְנֵי	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אָמָר	עַם	פֶּרֶשׁ
<b>But when Esther came</b>	<b>before</b>	<b>the king</b>	<b>he commanded</b>	H5973	<b>by letters</b>

בְּנֵי עַל הַצְּבָא: H5921 on the gallows

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 7:16** (Parallel theme): His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.

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