

Esther 9:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.

Analysis

For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater. Mordecai's growing fame and influence spread empire-wide. The phrase "waxed greater and greater" suggests continuous increase in power, respect, and effectiveness. This growth parallels Joseph's elevation in Egypt (Genesis 41:40-43) and Daniel's in Babylon (Daniel 6:1-3)—God elevating covenant-faithful servants to positions of enormous influence in pagan empires. Mordecai's greatness served protective and providential purposes: his influence enabled Jewish deliverance and positioned him to "speak peace to all his seed" (10:3). God's elevation of His servants serves redemptive purposes beyond personal advancement.

Historical Context

The description of Mordecai's growing influence suggests he effectively exercised power, increasing his reputation and authority over time. Ancient sources describe how capable administrators could expand their influence beyond official position through effective governance. Mordecai's competence in managing Haman's former responsibilities, combined with his dramatic elevation and the Jews' miraculous deliverance, created widespread respect. Persian administrative texts show how officials who served effectively could accumulate additional responsibilities and authority. Mordecai's continuing growth in influence

positioned him not merely to survive crisis but to thrive, using his position to benefit Jews empire-wide (10:3).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Mordecai's increasing greatness demonstrate that God elevates His servants not merely for personal benefit but for redemptive purposes?
2. What does his pattern of growth teach about faithfully stewarding increased influence and responsibility over time?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	וְגָדוֹל:	מִרְדֵּכָי	בֵּית יֵת	הֵם לֶךְ	וְשִׁמְעָהּ
H3588	greater and greater	For Mordecai	house	in the king's	and his fame
	H1419	H4782	H1004	H4428	H8089
הוּלָהּ	בְּכָל	הַמְּדִינֹת	כִּי	הָאִישׁ	מִרְדֵּכָי
waxed	H3605	throughout all the provinces	H3588	for this man	For Mordecai
H1980		H4082		H376	H4782
הוּלָהּ	וְגָדוֹל:				
waxed	greater and greater				
H1980	H1419				

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 11:9 (Parallel theme): So David waxed greater and greater: for the LORD of hosts was with him.

2 Samuel 3:1 (Parallel theme): Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker.

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