

ENJOYING ESTHER 6:1-6

Esther 6:1 On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. **Esther 6:2** And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. **Esther 6:3** And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him. **Esther 6:4** And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. **Esther 6:5** And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in. **Esther 6:6** So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?

1. Enjoy the story &/ beauty!

To simply read this book...is wonderful!

Esther 9:26 Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them, **Esther 9:27** The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year; **Esther 9:28** And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that **these days of Purim** should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed. **Esther 9:29** Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim. **Esther 9:30** And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth, **Esther 9:31** To confirm **these days of Purim in their times appointed**, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry. **Esther 9:32** And the decree of Esther confirmed **these matters of Purim**; and it was written in the book.

King: Xerxes

Queens / chief consorts: 2

Anger

Advisors advising

Persian Empire

Esther, Mordecai

Wicked Haman → the enemy of the Jews

Plots

Plots within plots

Humor on every page!

2. Enjoy the mystery!

Then you notice the obvious...

Esther doesn't mention:

➤ **God / Lord**

Every single time the story goes right up to the house, peaks into the window, and walks away / on!

➤ **Prayer**

Esther 4:15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, **Esther 4:16** Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. **Esther 4:17** So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

➤ **The Law / Torah**

➤ **The Temple / Temple Worship**

➤ **The Land... only vague references**

Esther 2:5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; **Esther 2:6** Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away

with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. **Esther 2:7** 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.

➤ **And then the word's connected to God are connected to humans**

Esther 2:9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained **kindness** (רַחֲמִים) of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.

Esther 2:15 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** (רַחֲמִים) in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

Esther 2:17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained **grace** (חַן) **and** **favour** (רַחֲמִים) in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 5:2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained **favour** (רַחֲמִים) in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

Esther 5:8 If I have found **favour** (רַחֲמִים) in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.

Esther 7:3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found **favour** (רַחֲמִים) in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

Esther 8:5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have found **favour** (רַחֲמִים) in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces:

➤ **Human motivations are almost completely absent / lacking**

Bernard Lewis: on the Historian's job / function

- **What happened**
- **How it happened**
- **Why it happened**

And we want the "why"!!!

Why did Esther go?

Why did Mordecai & Esther **not** reveal their identity as Jewish?

Why did Mordecai refuse to bow?

Why was Haman so outraged?

What did Xerxes know?

Esther 6:6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? **Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?**

Good (or bad) news:

Esther has several additions written in Greek → that fill in all the blanks, answer all your questions, & solve all your problems