



ESTHER

**Bright Star
in a dark place**
(Chapters 6 & 7)

By Samuel E. Ward

For text version: cbckck.blogspot.com



Introduction





Chart of the Book of Esther

I. God's Hand Prepares for the Future— Chapters 1-2			II. God's Hand Rules in the Present— Chapters 3-8				III. God's Hand Brings Judgment in its Time— Chapter 9:1-19			IV. God's Hand Executes Justice in the End— Chapters 9:20-10:3					
The Great Banquets	Dethronement of Vashti	The Choice of a New Queen	Haman's Plot – Plot #1	Mordecai's Plan	Esther's 1 st Banquet	Haman's Plot – Plot #2	Haman's Humiliation	Esther's 2 nd Banquet	Mordecai's Elevation	A Great Slaughter	A Great Vengeance	A Great Celebration	Mordecai's Letter	Esther's Confirmation	Mordecai's Greatness





In the previous chapters in Esther we have observed



- I. God's Hand Prepares for the Future - The Dethronement of Vashti and Installation of Esther
- II. God's Hand Rules in the Present - Mordecai's and Esther's contemporary situation
 - A. Haman's Plot, **Esther 3** - Exterminate his enemy Mordecai and Mordecai's people from the empire.
 - B. Mordecai's Plan, **Esther 4** - Save Mordecai's people from destruction.



 C. Esther's First Banquet, **Esther 5:1-5** - 

The first step in Esther's attempt to have the king intervene in Haman's plot to destroy her people

D. Haman's Second Plot, **Esther 5:9-14** -

The nature of Haman described and demonstrated





Esther chapter 6 is pivotal in the story of the Jews deliverance as we see the circumstances reverse for both Haman and Mordecai.

E. Haman's Humiliation, **Esther 6:1-5**

1. The King Was Sleepless in Susa, **Esther 6:1-5.**





a. How God used Xerxes' sleeplessness:

- ➡ to draw attention to Mordecai's vital service to the king, **Esther 6:1-3**.
- ➡ to interrupt Haman's plan to execute Mordecai, **Esther 6:4-5**.





b. How believers can use their sleeplessness:

- ➡ to find comfort through a conference with God, Psa 63:6-8.

Psalm 63:6-8 (NIV2011) 6 On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. 7 Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. 8 I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.





to review God's promises of His protection, presence, and faithfulness



Psalm 119:147-151 (NIV2011) 147 I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word. 148 My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises. 149 Hear my voice in accordance with your love; preserve my life, LORD, according to your laws. 150 Those who devise wicked schemes are near, but they are far from your law. 151 Yet you are near, LORD, and all your commands are true.



c. What outcome can be expected from spending this precious time spent with God.



Psalm 4:8 (NIV2011) In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.





2. Haman Was Clueless Before the King, Esther 6:6-9.

a. Haman was blinded by his own pride and arrogance,
Esther 6:6-9.

What God knew that Haman did not:

► Man's plans are futile if God is not in them.

Psalm 94:11 (NIV2011) The LORD knows all human plans; he knows that they are futile.



➡ Man's wisdom is foolish when compared to God's wisdom.



1 Corinthians 3:18-20 (NIV2011) 18 Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; 20 and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.”





➔ Man's wealth is not great enough to purchase eternal life.

Proverbs 10:2 (NIV2011) Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death.

Matthew 16:26 (NIV2011) What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?



Man's wealth, if any is left, will pass to another when he dies.



Psalm 49:10 (NIV2011) For all can see that the wise die, that the foolish and the senseless also perish, leaving their wealth to others.





3. Haman Was Rankless Before the People, **Esther 6:10-11**.

God, in His use of irony (making the ruler a servant), illustrates these biblical truths concerning the arrogant abuse of power:

Psalm 75:7 (NIV2011) It is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.



Luke 14:11 (NIV2011) For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Proverbs 29:23 (NASB) A man's pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor.





4. Haman Was Powerless Before Mordecai, **Esther 6:12-14.**

Romans 8:28-31 (NIV2011) 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.



29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. 31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?





Eventually, even our enemies will see the hand of God over us and will retreat.



Psalm 56:9 (NIV2011) Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help. By this I will know that God is for me.





F. Esther's Second Banquet and Petition, **Esther 7:1-10**



1. The Request of Queen Esther Before the King - Spare the life of Esther and her people, **Esther 7:1-4**
2. The Revelation of Haman as the Architect of the Plan to Exterminate Esther's People, **Esther 7:5-6**





3. The Rage of the King Raining Down on Haman, **Esther 7:7-8**.



- a. Xerxes' uncharacteristic restraint, **Esther 7:7a**
- b. Haman's desperate plea for pardon from **Esther 7:7b**
- c. Haman's unfortunate posture when the king returns, **Esther 7:8a**
- d. Xerxes' explosive rage brings his wrath upon Haman, **Esther 7:8b**



4. The Ricochet of Haman's Plot Back to Himself, **Esther 7:9-10**



Those who are keen on the promises of God should understand that the promises made to the wicked are just as true as those made to the righteous.



God promises to judge the world for their evil; which they practiced without regard for the God Who is witness against them.



Isaiah 13:11 (NIV2011) I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless.





God promises to judge individuals for their deeds which were recorded in God's book of deeds. To their chagrin, they will find that their deeds will condemn rather than exonerate them.



Revelation 20:11-15 (NIV2011) 11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.





12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.





14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.





God promises to avenge the death of those who are killed for their witness to God and His word.



Revelation 6:9-11 (NIV2011) 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.





10 They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” 11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.





The greatest promise

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2 (NIV2011)

