

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Esther Chapter 7 — The Queen's Courage and the Villain's Fall

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Esther Chapter 7 is the dramatic climax of Esther's courageous appeal.

For two banquets, Esther has carefully waited for the right moment to reveal Haman's evil plan. Now the moment has arrived.

The king asks Esther once again what she wants.

This time, Esther does not delay.

She asks for her life and the lives of her people.

Then she identifies the enemy:

“The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!”

Everything changes.

The king becomes furious.

Haman becomes terrified.

The man who intended to destroy the Jews now begs Esther for his own life.

Then the king learns about the gallows Haman had prepared for Mordecai.

The king gives the order:

“Hang him on it!”

The chapter ends with Haman hanging on the very gallows he built for another man.

This is one of the clearest examples in Scripture of **divine reversal**.

I. ESTHER AND HAMAN COME BEFORE THE KING

Esther 7:1 — The Second Banquet

Verse 1

“So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther.”

This is the continuation of the banquet Esther had prepared.

The atmosphere may appear peaceful, but Esther knows that a life-and-death matter is about to be revealed.

Haman also comes to the banquet, apparently unaware that he is about to be exposed.

Cross References

Esther 5:4

“Esther answered, ‘If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to a banquet I have prepared for him.’”

Esther 5:8

“If I have found favor in the king’s eyes, and if it pleases the king to grant my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king’s question.”

Proverbs 15:17

“It is better to have a meal of vegetables where there is love than to have a fattened calf where there is hatred.”

Crawford Commentary

Esther has patiently prepared for this moment.

She did not rush into the king's presence without preparation.

She waited, prayed, fasted, and then spoke.

Spiritual Principle

Wisdom knows that the right message must sometimes wait for the right moment.

II. THE KING ASKS ESTHER FOR HER REQUEST

Esther 7:2 — The King Asks Again

Verse 2

“On the second day of the banquet of wine, the king again asked Esther, ‘What is your request, Queen Esther? It will be granted to you. What is your petition? Even up to half of the kingdom—it will be done.’”

The king asks Esther the same basic question he asked at the previous banquet.

But now Esther is ready.

The time has come for her to reveal the truth.

Cross References

Esther 5:3

“The king asked her, ‘What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even if it is up to half the kingdom, it will be granted to you.’”

Esther 5:6

“While they were drinking wine at the banquet, the king asked Esther again, ‘What is your petition? It will be granted. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom—it will be fulfilled.’”

Mark 6:23

“He promised her with an oath, ‘Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even up to half my kingdom.’”

Crawford Commentary

The king has given Esther an opportunity to speak.

She now has to decide whether to remain silent or risk everything by telling the truth.

She chooses courage.

III. ESTHER ASKS FOR HER LIFE

Esther 7:3 — “Grant Me My Life”

Verse 3

“Then Queen Esther replied, ‘If I have found favor in your eyes, O king, and if it pleases the king, grant me my life—this is my request. And spare my people—this is my petition.’”

Esther does not begin by asking for riches.

She does not ask for political power.

She asks for **life**.

She identifies herself with her people.

Her request is:

Save me. Save my people.

Cross References

Exodus 32:32

“But now, please forgive their sin—but if you will not, then erase my name from the book you have written.”

Nehemiah 1:11

“Lord, please hear the prayer of your servant and the prayers of your servants who delight in honoring your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.”

Romans 9:3

“I could wish that I myself were cursed and separated from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race.”

Crawford Commentary

Esther demonstrates sacrificial concern.

She does not separate herself from the people in danger.

Although she is queen, she identifies herself with those who are threatened.

Spiritual Principle

True leadership does not abandon people in danger; it stands with them.

IV. ESTHER REVEALS THE DEATH SENTENCE

Esther 7:4 — “My People Have Been Sold”

Verse 4

“For my people and I have been sold to be destroyed, killed, and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as slaves, I would have remained silent, because such a distress would not justify disturbing the king.”

Esther finally reveals the truth.

The decree was not merely about taxation.

It was not merely about political disagreement.

It was a plan to destroy an entire people.

Esther tells the king:

“My people and I have been sold to be destroyed.”

Cross References

Esther 3:13

“Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king’s provinces, instructing them to destroy, kill, and annihilate all Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day: the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. Their property was to be taken as plunder.”

Esther 4:7

“Mordecai told him everything that had happened, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews.”

Psalms 44:12

“You sold your people for nothing; you gained nothing from their sale.”

Crawford Commentary

Esther's words force the king to confront the reality of the decree.

What Haman had presented as a political matter was actually a murderous conspiracy.

V. THE KING DEMANDS TO KNOW THE ENEMY

Esther 7:5 — “Who Is He?”

Verse 5

“King Ahasuerus asked Queen Esther, ‘Who is he? Where is this man who dared to do such a thing?’”

The king is shocked.

He now understands that someone has plotted against Esther and her people.

He wants a name.

Cross References

Genesis 3:13

“Then the Lord God asked the woman, ‘What have you done?’ The woman answered, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’”

2 Samuel 12:7

“Then Nathan said to David, ‘You are the man!’”

Proverbs 20:2

“A king’s anger is like the roar of a lion; anyone who provokes him risks his life.”

Crawford Commentary

The king asks the question that Haman has feared:

Who is responsible?

Esther is now ready to identify him.

VI. ESTHER EXPOSES HAMAN

Esther 7:6 — “The Adversary and Enemy”

Verse 6

“Esther answered, ‘The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!’ Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen.”

This is the turning point of the chapter.

Esther does not hide the truth.

She names the enemy.

Haman is exposed.

The man who once held tremendous authority is now terrified.

Cross References

2 Samuel 12:7

“Then Nathan said to David, ‘You are the man!’”

Nathan exposed David's sin directly.

Esther 3:10

“So the king removed his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.”

Revelation 12:10

“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, ‘Now salvation and power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, because the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accused them before our God day and night, has been thrown down.’”

Crawford Commentary

Haman's title is now revealed:

Adversary. Enemy. Wicked man.

His public position cannot protect him from the consequences of his actions.

Spiritual Principle

Sin may hide behind position, wealth, and influence for a time, but God can bring hidden evil into the light.

VII. THE KING BECOMES ANGRY

Esther 7:7 — Haman Begg for His Life

Verse 7

“The king, enraged, got up from the banquet and went into the palace garden. But Haman stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life, for he saw that the king had already decided his doom.”

The king's anger is intense.

Haman immediately understands that his situation has changed.

He is no longer the powerful official who controlled the situation.

Now he is the condemned man begging for his life.

Cross References

Proverbs 16:14

“A king's anger is a messenger of death, but a wise person will try to calm it.”

Genesis 44:16

“Judah replied, ‘What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? How can we prove our innocence? God has exposed your servants’ guilt. Here we are; we are my lord’s slaves—we and the one who was found with the cup.’”

Job 27:22

“God will attack the wicked without mercy; they will try to escape from His power.”

Crawford Commentary

Haman once had authority over others.

Now he is begging for mercy.

His pride has been completely reversed.

VIII. HAMAN FALLS BEFORE ESTHER

Esther 7:8 — Haman's Final Humiliation

Verse 8

“Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman had fallen on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, ‘Will he even assault the queen while I am in the house?’ As soon as the king spoke, they covered Haman’s face.”

The situation becomes even worse for Haman.

He is pleading with Esther, but the king interprets his position beside Esther as another offense.

Haman has lost control of the situation completely.

Cross References

Job 9:24

“When a land falls into the hands of the wicked, God covers the eyes of its judges. If it is not God, then who is responsible?”

Jeremiah 13:26

“I will pull your skirts up over your face so that your shame will be exposed.”

Psalms 35:26

“May all who rejoice at my troubles be ashamed and disgraced; may all who exalt themselves over me be clothed with shame and disgrace.”

Crawford Commentary

Haman's downfall is now complete.

He entered the story as the man whom everyone was commanded to honor.

Now he stands before the king as a condemned enemy.

IX. THE GALLOWS ARE DISCOVERED

Esther 7:9 — “The Gallows He Prepared”

Verse 9

“Then Harbonah, one of the king’s attendants, said, ‘There’s a gallows seventy-five feet tall standing at Haman’s house—the one he prepared for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.’ The king said, ‘Hang him on it!’”

The king now learns something extremely important.

Haman had not only plotted against the Jews.

He had personally prepared a gallows for Mordecai.

And Mordecai was the man who had previously saved the king's life.

Cross References

Psalms 7:15

“The wicked dig a pit and hollow it out, but they fall into the hole they have made.”

Proverbs 26:27

“Whoever digs a pit will fall into it; if someone rolls a stone, it will roll back on them.”

Psalms 9:15

“The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug; their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.”

Crawford Commentary

The symbolism is unmistakable.

Haman built the gallows for Mordecai.

But the gallows becomes Haman's.

The trap he prepared for another becomes his own judgment.

Spiritual Principle

The evil we deliberately prepare against others can become the instrument of our own downfall.

X. HAMAN IS HANGED

Esther 7:10 — The End of the Enemy

Verse 10

“So they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. And the king’s anger subsided.”

The chapter ends with Haman dead.

The man who planned genocide has been judged.

The man who built the gallows for Mordecai dies on those very gallows.

Cross References

Proverbs 11:8

“The righteous person is rescued from trouble, and it falls on the wicked instead.”

Psalms 37:35

“I have seen a wicked and ruthless person flourishing like a green tree in its native soil.”

Proverbs 21:30

“There is no wisdom, understanding, or counsel that can succeed against the Lord.”

Crawford Commentary

Haman's death demonstrates a major biblical principle:

No human plan can ultimately defeat the purposes of God.

Haman possessed:

- Position.
- Wealth.
- Political influence.
- Access to the king.
- Authority.
- A powerful network.

But none of those things could save him from the consequences of his wickedness.

XI. PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question 1 — What did Esther ask the king to grant her?

Answer:

Esther asked the king to spare her life and the lives of her people.

She said:

“Grant me my life—and spare my people.”

Question 2 — Why had Esther waited before revealing her request?

Answer:

Esther had demonstrated wisdom and patience. She had prepared carefully and waited until the proper moment to make her appeal.

The story shows that courage does not always mean acting immediately.

Sometimes courage means **waiting, preparing, and then speaking when the opportunity comes.**

Question 3 — What did Esther reveal about Haman?

Answer:

She revealed that Haman was the person responsible for the plan to destroy her and her people.

She called him:

“The adversary and enemy.”

Question 4 — How did Haman react when Esther exposed him?

Answer:

He was terrified.

The man who had previously acted powerful and confident suddenly realized that his own life was in danger.

Question 5 — Why did the king become angry?

Answer:

The king discovered that Haman had arranged for Esther and her people to be destroyed.

The king was furious that someone had plotted such an evil act against the queen and her people.

Question 6 — What did Haman do when he realized his doom?

Answer:

He stayed behind and begged Queen Esther for his life.

Question 7 — What did Harbonah tell the king?

Answer:

Harbonah told the king that there was a seventy-five-foot gallows at Haman's house.

It had been prepared for Mordecai, the man who had previously helped save the king's life.

Question 8 — What did the king command?

Answer:

The king commanded that Haman be hanged on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai.

Question 9 — What is the great reversal in Esther Chapter 7?

Answer:

Haman intended to destroy Mordecai and the Jewish people.

Instead:

- Esther exposed Haman.
 - Haman lost the king's favor.
 - Haman was condemned.
 - Haman was executed.
 - Haman died on the gallows he had built for Mordecai.
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Question 10 — What does Esther teach us about speaking up for others?

Answer:

Esther demonstrates the importance of courageous advocacy.

She could have remained silent and protected herself.

Instead, she risked her position and possibly her life to speak for people who could not defend themselves.

Question 11 — What does Esther 7 teach about hidden evil?

Answer:

It teaches that hidden evil may succeed temporarily, but it cannot remain hidden forever.

Haman's conspiracy eventually came into the light.

Question 12 — What does Esther 7 teach about God's providence?

Answer:

It shows that God can work through a series of ordinary circumstances to accomplish His purposes.

Although God's name is not directly mentioned in the chapter, the events reveal a powerful pattern of providence:

Esther is positioned to speak.

Haman is exposed.

The king becomes angry.

The gallows are discovered.

Haman is judged.

The circumstances have been moving toward this moment.

XII. KEY LESSONS FROM ESTHER CHAPTER 7

1. GOD HONORS BOLD FAITH

Esther risked her life to speak for her people.

Her courage became the means through which the situation changed.

Faith sometimes requires us to speak when silence would be easier.

2. GOD EXPOSES THE WICKED

Haman's plans had been hidden behind political authority.

But his evil was eventually exposed.

What people hide from others is never hidden from God.

3. DIVINE REVERSALS ARE REAL

Haman built the gallows for Mordecai.

Haman died on those gallows.

The trap changed direction.

God can turn an enemy's plan completely upside down.

4. ONE COURAGEOUS VOICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Esther stood before the king and spoke.

Her words affected an entire nation.

Never underestimate what God can accomplish through one person who is willing to stand for what is right.

5. GOD ORCHESTRATES THE DETAILS

The story contains many apparently ordinary events:

- Banquets.
- Conversations.
- A sleepless night.
- Historical records.
- Mordecai's forgotten service.
- Haman's pride.
- Esther's courage.
- The discovery of the gallows.

Yet these events work together toward God's purpose.

XIII. CRAWFORD COMMENTARY PRINCIPLE

“When God Is Working Behind the Scenes, the Enemy May Not Realize That His Defeat Has Already Begun.”

Haman believed he was winning.

He had authority.

He had influence.

He had the king's signet ring.

He had a plan.

He had built the gallows.

But he did not know that God had already begun turning the situation around.

Esther's courage exposed him.

The king's anger condemned him.

The gallows he built became his own judgment.

The great lesson is this:

The wicked may appear powerful for a season, but God's purposes are greater than human schemes.

XIV. CENTRAL TRUTH OF ESTHER

CHAPTER 7

God can use courageous obedience to expose evil, protect His people, and bring about a divine reversal at exactly the right time.

Esther spoke.

Haman was exposed.

Mordecai was protected.

The enemy fell.

And the sovereign hand of Providence continued to work.

The gallows built for Mordecai became the instrument of Haman's judgment.