

A Time to Stand

...for such a time as this. Esther 4:14



Mordecai Honored
Esther 6
Lesson 6

Background Information

While men such as Haman try to harness circumstance to their advantage through their own schemes, God's people see circumstance as being in the hands of God who works behind the scenes to accomplish His will. Chapter six marks the turning point of the book, as we begin to see a series of events that unmistakably point to God's sovereign hand behind the events that follow. Who would know that a sleepless night would lead to the king learning of Mordecai's past bravery on his behalf. The book of the records of the chronicles, would have been the official record of the events of the Persian Empire.

His neglect of honoring Mordecai for saving his life, drove the king quickly seek to rectify the situation. Persian kings were known for honoring those who were faithful to them. What are the chances that Haman would show up at the exact time that the king sought for someone to suggest a means of honoring this faithful subject. Haman's pride saw only himself in that place and suggested a means that he himself desired. We can only imagine his dismay, when he learned that the man he was to honor was his mortal enemy.

God's timing is always perfect, never haphazard or late. Haman's wife's' unknowingly prophetic words surely rang true in Haman's ear as she said, "If Mordecai, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him."

...the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment...

2 Peter 2:9

Treasures of the Heart

...Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"

Esther 6:9

What are the facts? - Observation

The first step is **Observation**. Carefully **read the text** in several translations, paying close attention to the **facts**. **Mark your text**: look for repeated words, contrasts or comparisons. Look for answers to: Who? What? When? Where? Why or How? Studying a narrative requires following the key characters and paying special attention to what God says and does. Note a key verse in each section, to help you understand the main emphasis of the section?

Esther 6:1-9

1 That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. 2 And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. 3 Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

4 So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

5 The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

6 So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" 7 And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, 8 let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head. 9 Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'"

Esther 6:10-14

10 Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken."

11 So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"

12 Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered. 13 When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him."

14 While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

Dig Deeper _____

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Lesson

What lesson can I draw from my observations? A lesson is a general principle or basic truth drawn from the passage. **Note** the verse you took the lesson from. (aim for 10 words or less)

Esther 6:1-9 _____
verse _____

Esther 6:10-14 _____
verse _____

Application

Pray! – Simply state how you will apply each lesson. Is there a challenge, a command, a warning or an example? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What is God saying (to me) through this truth? What am I going to do practically in response to God's Word? (aim for 10 words or less)

Esther 6:1-9 _____

Esther 6:10-14 _____

Words or repeated phrases

Repeated words help us discover the **main point**.

Getting the point!

State the "Main Point" of each section. See if you can boil down the meaning of each section into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try)

Esther 6:1-9 _____

Esther 6:10-14 _____

Main idea

Simply state the main idea of the whole passage in one or two sentences.

Title

State the main point of the entire passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles

Find a New Testament example of this Old Testament truth.

Time to stand

Time to think: How will we know how to respond to life's ups and downs? God's Word is always the basis of our choices. Knowing who He is helps us face whatever circumstances we find ourselves in. **What did you learn about God, that will help you stand firm...in such a time as this?**

Radiating His Truth

God never is before His time, And never is behind.

Harry Ironsides



