

A Time to Stand

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



Haman's Fall
Esther 7
Lesson 7

Background Information

A wise person knows what, how and when to speak. God has promised in James 1:5, to give the one who asks the wisdom needed, when it is needed. Finally, Esther finally revealed her nationality, identifying with her people and putting her own life in danger. Haman's fall began the moment he hatched a plot to destroy God's people. God watches over those who are His, to do them good.

Sometimes when we don't see immediate justice, we think that God doesn't see, but God's long-suffering allowed Haman into think he was safe. *Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil* Ecc.8:11. The tables had now been turned, but the Jews were still left with a major problem. The king's edict to eradicate them was still in effect. We remember, a Persian decree is unchangeable. Though the enemy has been removed, the king must right the wrong that has been done...

God's long-suffering today is an opportunity for people to repent, but our sinful world thinks it means God won't judge at all. We know that God's final judgment will come *...when they say, Peace and safety! Then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.* 1 Thess. 5:3

The righteous is delivered from trouble, and it comes to the wicked instead.

Prov 11:8

Treasures of the Heart

If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we have been sold...to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Esther 7:3-4

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 7:1-4

1 So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther. 2 And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"

3 Then Queen Esther answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. 4 For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss."

Dig Deeper - Interpretation

The second step is **Interpretation**. This is the time to dig out your study tools, such as a bible dictionary, concordance, maps, or word study tools. Keys to correct interpretation are **context, repeated words, word definitions, patterns (similarities/differences), culture and cross-references**. **Notate** where you found it to share with the group. Interpretation answers the question, "What was the original author trying to convey?"

Esther 7:5-10

5 So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?"

6 And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!" So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

7 Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king. 8 When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, "Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house?"

As the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. 9 Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman." Then the king said, "Hang him on it!"

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided.

Dig Deeper _____

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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 7:1-4 _____
verse _____

Esther 7:5-10 _____
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 7:1-4 _____

Esther 7:5-10 _____

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 7:1-4 _____

Esther 7:5-10 _____

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
Confront evil rather than cooperating with it.
Landon Dowden



