

REWARD AND REVERSAL

³ *“What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?” the king asked. “Nothing has been done for him,” his attendants answered.*

Esther 6:3

⁵ *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

Psalms 23:5

¹⁰ *God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*

Hebrews 6:10

I. God is a rewarder. (Hebrews 11:6)

⁶ *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

A. God loves to reward in public and in ironic ways.
(Revelation 3:9)

⁹ *I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars--I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.*

II. God's rewards tell a detailed story.

- A. Haman hates Mordecai because he won't bow to him.
(Esther 3:1-5)

¹ After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. ² All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor. ³ Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?" ⁴ Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply. Therefore they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behavior would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew. ⁵ When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged.

- B. Haman convinces Xerxes to order genocide against all Jews in the world. (Esther 3:6-15)
- C. Haman has built a 75 foot tall stick on which to impale Mordecai.

III. Rewards and reversals

- A. The evening before Mordecai is to be impaled the king can't sleep. (Esther 6:1)

¹ That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him.

- B. The king just so happens to open a book where Mordecai is found to have saved his life five years early. (Esther 6:2-3)

² *It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.* ³ *“What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?” the king asked. “Nothing has been done for him,” his attendants answered.*

- C. The king is so shocked at Mordecai's lack of reward that he asks for a second opinion so that someone other than himself will declare a proper depth and width of reward. (Esther 6:4-5)

⁴ *The king said, “Who is in the court?” Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about impaling Mordecai on the pole he had set up for him.* ⁵ *His attendants answered, “Haman is standing in the court.” “Bring him in,” the king ordered.*

- D. The king speaks first. (Esther 6:6)

⁶ *When Haman entered, the king asked him, “What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?” Now Haman thought to himself, “Who is there that the king would rather honor than me?”*

- E. Haman decrees God's blessing upon Mordecai. (Esther 6:7-9)

⁷ *So he answered the king, “For the man the king delights to honor,* ⁸ *have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head.* ⁹ *Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honor, and lead him on*

the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!' “

F. Reward and reversal appear. (Esther 6:10-12)

¹⁰ *“Go at once,” the king commanded Haman. “Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king’s gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended.”* ¹¹ *So Haman got the robe and the horse. He robed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city streets, proclaiming before him, “This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!”* ¹² *Afterward Mordecai returned to the king’s gate. But Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief,*

G. Haman’s plan is foiled and he is impaled upon the very stick he had built for Mordecai. (Esther 7:9-10)

⁹ *Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, “A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits stands by Haman’s house. He had it set up for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.” The king said, “Impale him on it!”* ¹⁰ *So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king’s fury subsided.*