**ESTHER 5-6**

**Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. (Proverbs 16:18)**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Chapter 5**

**Esther’s invitation (1-2)**

Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house. **2**And it was so, when the **king saw Esther** the queen standing in the court, that **she obtained favor in his sight**: and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the scepter.

**Esther’s Request (3-5)**

**3**Then said **the king** unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and **what is thy request?** it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom. **4**And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, **let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him. 5**Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

**Esther’s Banquet #1 (6-8)**

**6**And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, **What is thy petition?** and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed. **7**Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is; **8**If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the **king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them**, and I will do tomorrow as the king hath said.

**Haman’s Pride (9-12)**

**9**Then went **Haman** forth that day **joyful** and with a **glad heart**: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of **indignation against Mordecai**. **10**Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife. **11**And Haman told them of the **glory of his riches**, and the **multitude of his children**, and all the things wherein the **king had promoted him**, and how he had **advanced him above the princes** and servants of the king. **12**Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and tomorrow am I invited unto her also with the king.

**Gallows for Mordecai (13-14)**

**13**Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate. **14**Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, **Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high**, and tomorrow speak thou unto the king that **Mordecai may be hanged thereon**: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And **the thing pleased Haman**; and he caused the gallows to be made.

**Chapter 6**

**King’s Insomnia (1)**

On that night **could not the king sleep**, and he commanded to bring the **book of records of the chronicles**; and they were read before the king.

**Mordecai Saves the King’s Life (2-3)**

**2**And it was found written, that **Mordecai** had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. **3**And the king said, What honor and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, **There is nothing done for him**.

**Haman’s Pride Turned to Mourning (4-10)**

**4**And the king said, **Who is in the court?** Now **Haman** was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. **5**And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in .**6**So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor? **Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honor more than to myself**? **7**And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honor, **8**Let the **royal apparel** be brought which the king useth to wear, and the **horse that the king rideth upon**, and the **crown royal** which is set upon his head: **9And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honor, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honor.**

**10**Then the king said to Haman, **Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken. 11**Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor.

**Haman’s Shame and Wife’s Prophetic Proclamation (12-14)**

**12**And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But **Haman** hasted to his house **mourning**, and having his **head covered**. **13**And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. **Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him,** **If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him. 14**And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hasted to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

**NEXT WEEK**

Esther’s 2nd Banquet

Revelation

A Hanging

A Letter