

Context

- 1] Esther, a secret Jew had become queen of the Persian empire (2:5ff)
- 2] Haman, (the evil one/devil) sworn enemy of the Jews, had been made 2nd in the empire. (3:1ff)
- 3] Haman offended by Mordecai the Jew, Esther's stepfather, he planned to kill all Jews (3:5ff)
- 4] Esther, commanded by Mordecai to plead for the Jews, Esther invite King and Haman to banquet (4:1ff)
- 5] Haman in high spirits but frustrated by Mordecai plans to ask King and hang Mordecai in the morning (5:5f)

What surprises or confuses you?

- 6 Mordecai had broken the King's law (3:2-5; 5:9)
- 13 Where did this view of the invincibility of the Jews come from?

MP God inevitably & timeously delivers the Jews / His people from all who would harm them.

KV Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him – you will surely come to ruin. (13b)

Sleepless deliberations (1-3)

- 1] 'It just so happened-----' (1,2)
 - a) that night no sleep - (Haman building gallows)

nb literally 'the sleep of the king fled'
God works through co-incidences day to day circumstances

 - b) chronicles of reign

cf 3 months after stroke – found myself reading Burleigh history of Church in Scotland

 - c) Mordecai exposed assassination attempt (cf 2:23b)
 - 2] Honour and recognition – none (3)
- Nb recognition = promotion*
Don't look for recognition – God sees and will reward you in due course

Mistaken identity (4-9)

- 1] Who? – it just so happened.... (4,5)
- cf At just the right time (Gal 4:4)*
- a) Haman (to seek permission for hanging Mordecai)
 - b) standing in outer court.
- Nb outer/inner court (4:11) cf Tab. - most holy place / outer court yard (Ex 26:33,34; Lev16:2ff)*
- c) bring him in
- *God is in complete control. His timing is perfect. *

- 2] What 'for man King delights to honour' (6a)
- nb lit 'bend towards' (6 x2, 7, 9 x2, 11; 2:14)*
cf The one the king delights to honour – Jesus made himself nothing ...therefore God (Phil 2:6ff)
- 3] Haman's assumption (6b)
- Eg 'You're so vain. You probably think this song is about you'.*
Nb Pride (Proverbs 11:2; 16:18; 28:14; 29:23)
Do not take a place of honour (Lk14:8)
Pride comes before a fall
- 4] Haman's answer (7-9)
- Nb Royal robe the King has worn, Royal horse the king has ridden, A most noble prince, lead through the city, proclaiming 'this is what is done for the man the King delights in*

Tables turned (10-11)

1] For Mordecai –

Nb Just as you suggest – do not neglect anything you have recommended

Our deliverance is dependent on and completely in God's hands

2] So Haman

Lead horse proclaiming 'this is what's done'

City streets cf open square of the city (4:6)

Through Jesus, he delivered us from death and made a public spectacle of the powers and authorities (Col.2:17)

Inevitable decline (12-14)

1] Mordecai returns to King's gate (12a) *cf (2:19,21; 5:9)*

Nb picked the lowest seat

Nb The edict still stood – La of Medes and Persians (3:13)

** Remain focussed on the work of the Kingdom/salvation of God's people**

2] Haman (12b)

a) rushed home - head covered - shame & grief

cf Head covered (2 Sam 15:30)

** He not only defeats his enemies – he publicly humiliates them. **

b) told Zeresh and friends what had happened (13)

c) Reply - advisers and Zeresh - since Mordecai before whom downfall started Jewish - cannot stand / come to ruin

nb The futility of fighting God/His people (Acts 5:39)

cf 3rd Reich – for a 1000 yrs – lasted 1933-45. 1941 – Europe at its feet. Jews being extinguished in final solution. THEN 1942 war on 2nd front against Russia & USA entered European War. 1948 state of Israel formed

The downfall of all who hate the Jews / God's people is inevitable

God, the all-powerful, is committed, absolutely, to His people

3] departure (14) - while talking – King's Eunuchs hurried to Esther's banquet

cf Hurried by others (cf 5:5)

nb Devil pulled into God's water 'race' - At once (10) downfall had started (13) hurried away (14)

Conclusion

1) Praise God – He is in control even when it looks completely black

2) Do not fear enemies - God will expose and vindicate

3) Pray. Do what you are able. Trust God to work out of your sight / imagination.