

Read Esther 4:1-9

1 When Mordecai learned about all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on burlap and ashes, and went out into the city, crying with a loud and bitter wail.

2 He went as far as the gate of the palace, for no one was allowed to enter the palace gate while wearing clothes of mourning.

3 And as news of the king's decree/law reached all the provinces, there was great mourning among the Jews. They fasted, wept, and wailed, and many people dressed in burlap and ashes.

4 When Queen Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was deeply distressed. She sent clothing to him to replace the burlap, but he refused it.

5 Then Esther sent for Hathach who had been appointed as her attendant. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was troubling him and why he was in mourning.

6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the square in front of the palace gate.

7 Mordecai told him the whole story, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay to the government for the destruction of the Jews.

8 Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the decree issued in Susa that called for the death of all Jews. He asked Hathach to show it to Esther and explain the situation to her. He also asked Hathach to tell her to go to the king to beg for mercy and plead for her people.

9 So Hathach returned to Esther with Mordecai's message.

When Mordecai heard about Haman's new law, what did he do (v. 1)? He tore his clothes and put on burlap and ashes. That was the way the Jews mourned when they were really sad and worried. Mordecai knew that HE was the reason Haman hated the Jews. The Jews were going to be killed because Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman which made him mad. **Should he have bowed down to Haman?**

What did the Jews do when they heard about the new law (v. 3)? They fasted, wept, and wailed, and many people were wearing burlap and ashes. They were depressed/very sad and worried.

What did Esther do when she heard Mordecai was mourning (v. 4)? She was very worried about Mordecai so she sent him some new clothes so he wouldn't have to wear the scratchy burlap.

What did Esther do next (v. 5)? She sent for one of her attendants and told him to go find out why Mordecai was so sad and mourning. The King's wives were not allowed to leave the palace. She did not seem to be aware of the new law Haman had made to kill all the Jews.

When Hathach met Mordecai in the square, what did Mordecai tell him (v. 7)? The whole story about everything Haman had done to get the King to agree to kill all the Jews. Haman was very evil.

What two things did Mordecai tell Hathach to do (v. 8)? Show Esther the new law and tell her what was going on. Then tell her to go to the King and beg for his mercy so that he wouldn't kill all the Jews.