

Read Esther 6:1-9

1 That night the king had trouble sleeping, so he ordered an attendant to bring the book of the history of his reign so it could be read to him.

2 In those records he discovered an account of how Mordecai had exposed the plot of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the eunuchs who guarded the door to the king's private quarters. They had plotted to assassinate King Xerxes.

3 "What reward or recognition did we ever give Mordecai for this?" the king asked. His attendants replied, "Nothing has been done for him."

4 "Who is that in the outer court?" the king inquired. As it happened, Haman had just arrived in the outer court of the palace to ask the king to impale Mordecai on the pole he had prepared.

5 So the attendants replied to the king, "Haman is out in the court." "Bring him in," the king ordered.

6 So Haman came in, and the king said, "What should I do to honor a man who truly pleases me?" Haman thought to himself, "Whom would the king want to honor more than me?"

7 So he replied, "If the king wants to honor someone,

8 he should bring out one of the king's own royal robes, as well as a horse that the king himself has ridden—one with a royal emblem on its head.

9 Let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble officials. And let him see that the man whom the king wants to honor is dressed in the king's robes and led through the city square on the king's horse. Have the official shout as they go, "This is what the king does for someone he wishes to honor!"

What trouble was the King having one night (v. 1)? He was having trouble sleeping.

So what did he do? Asked to have the book of the history of his reign read to him. That was a record of everything that had happened in the kingdom since he started ruling as King over the last twelve years.

What did he find in the history book of his reign (v. 2)? How Mordecai had saved his life by exposing the plot to assassinate him.

What did he ask his attendants (v. 3)? Did we ever reward or recognize Mordecai for saving my life? **How did the attendants answer?** No we didn't.

Who arrived in the palace just then (v. 4)? Haman **What was Haman going to ask the King?** He was going to ask him to kill Mordecai.

When Haman came in what did the King ask him (v. 6)? How do I honor a man who has really pleased me?

What was Haman thinking? He was thinking that *his own* great moment had come and he was going to be recognized. He thought that the King was talking about him. He must have been so excited!

How did Haman tell the King to honor someone who deserved it? (Read (vv. 7-9)? Give him a big parade.

Isn't it interesting that the King rediscovered the great act that Mordecai had done right before Haman was coming to kill him? What a "coincidence!" The entire course of history for the Jewish nation was changed because a pagan king could not sleep.