

ESTHER CHAPTER 5: UNANNOUNCED AND UNINVITED

- Esther in the inner courtyard
- Esther forcing this confrontation, persuaded by Mordechai
- Greek additions are essentially “spin” building upon Greek stereotypes
- Additions interspersed between vss. 1 and 4, cannot be accepted





- Greek additions change the character of Esther and Xerxes and their relationship
- Greek: Esther is a cowering terrorized Jewish woman
- Hebrew: Esther is humble, committed and courageous
- Greek: King Xerxes is ill tempered and impatient
- Hebrew: King Xerxes is affectionate, concerned and generous towards Esther
- Doesn't make sense that lowly handmaidens would be allowed in the inner court unannounced! Even Haman couldn't do that

KING HAPPY TO SEE ESTHER

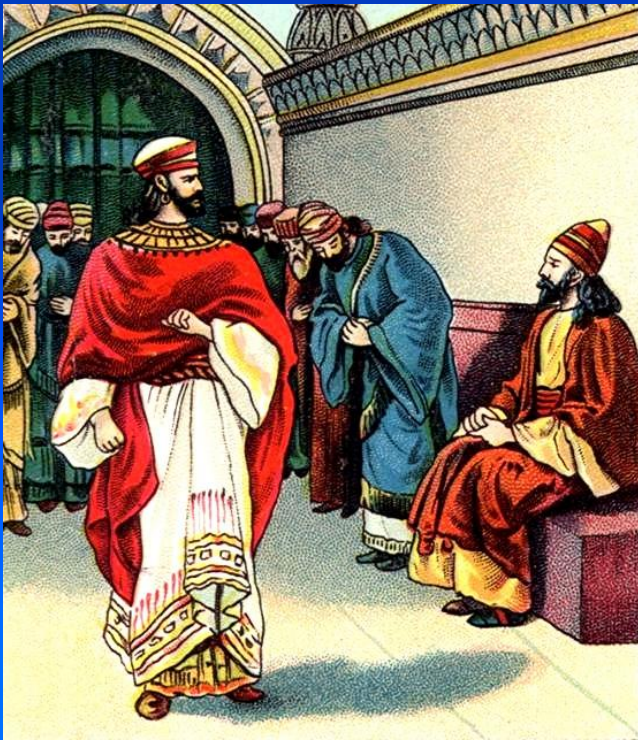
- King inquires of Esther and her only request is that the king and Haman come to a private banquet
- “Banquet of wine” probably just means wine before the meal
- “Up to half his kingdom” is an expression of generosity
- Esther doesn’t want to hurry matters, but rather wants to disarm the king and keep Haman unaware of the plan



THAT DARN MORDECHAI !!



- Much is happening quickly
- The next day after the 3 day fast Esther approaches the king, and that same day is also the first banquet
- Haman feels on top of the world !
- On his way home he encounters Mordechai who won't acknowledge him
- His mood was destroyed
- An issue of Shame and Honor





- Haman can't be happy as long as Mordechai and the Jews live
- Arab population: 400,000,000
- Israeli Jewish population: 7,000,000 (60 to 1 ratio)
- Arabs have 99.3% of all the "Middle East" land

ILLOGICAL IRRATIONAL

- Europe openly anti-Semitic
- USA leadership now tilting towards Arabs and away from Israel
- Haman's joy despite his wealth and power was destroyed unless the Jews were eliminated
- The Spirit of Amalek drives it all !
- God is Israel's only hope, just as God was the Jews only hope in Persia

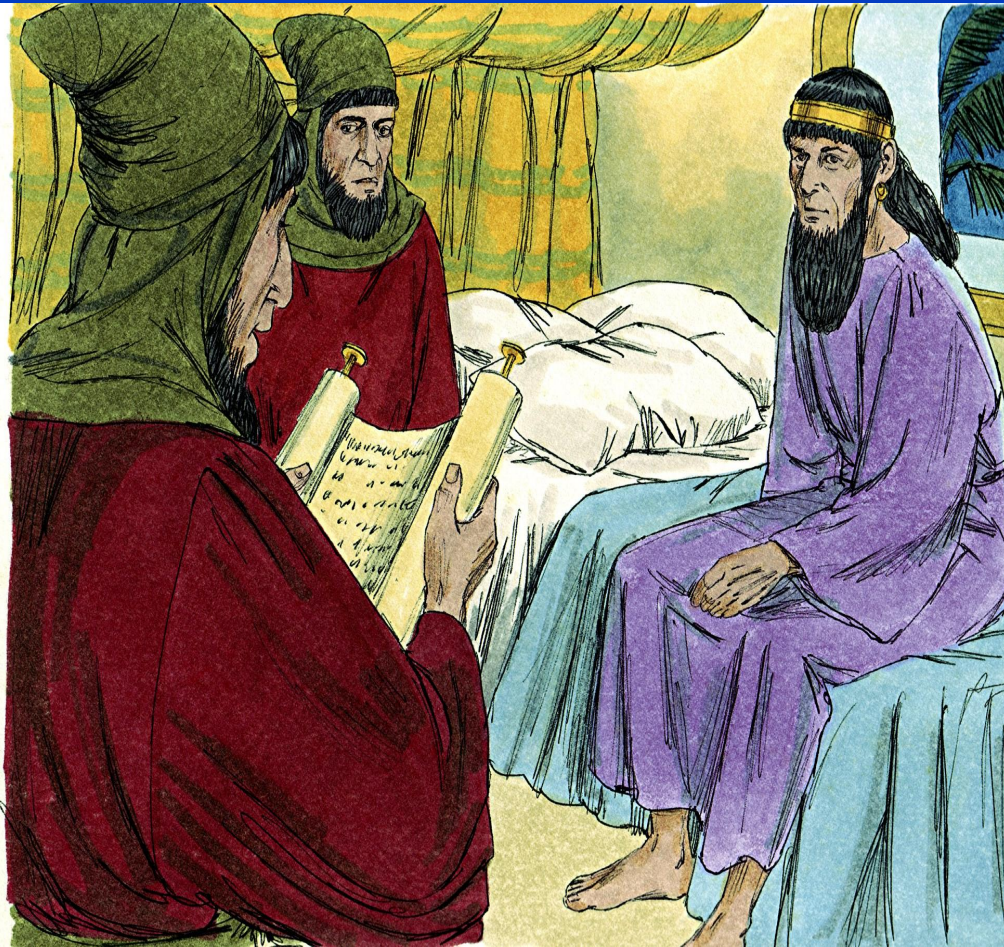




75 FT. TALL GALLOWS?

- As tall as a 7-story building ??
- Hyperbole
- Big as a Buick !
- **Ets** = tree, pole, NOT gallows
- Hanging meant impalement
- The idea greatly pleased Haman
- It raised his mood and now he was ready to go to Esther's next banquet

ESTHER CHAPTER 6: A LITTLE COMIC RELIEF



- “That night” = just after Haman met with his family
- Xerxes can’t sleep so he calls in a Scribe to read the “chronicles”
- Just so happens he reads about Mordechai uncovering an assassination plot
- Haman outside in outer courtyard, wanting permission to kill Mordechai !

THE TABLES ARE TURNED

- King invites Haman to enter, as he needs an advisor
- King wants to honor Mordechai, but Haman thinks he's talking about him!
- Haman suggests: 1) put the King's own robes onto the person 2) ride the king's own horse 3) high official to lead the horse and proclaim the merits of the honoree
- Issue involves Shame and Honor



“...Do this for Mordechai the Jew..”

- Jews, by now, are laughing uncontrollably !
- King seems to have no idea of hatred between Haman and Mordechai
- The news of this public display will spread like wildfire
- Haman goes home, humiliated, gathers his wife and family and laments how with all his wealth and power can this happen to him ??



**PEACE WILL COME
WHEN THE ARABS WILL
LOVE THEIR CHILDREN
MORE THAN THEY
HATE US.**

Golda Meir



- Unbearable humiliation has fueled the hatred
- How can so few Jews beat so many Arabs?
- Israel has captured the West Bank and Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and the Sinai
- Haman has every advantage but can't win !!
- His only solution? Kill Mordechai and all the Jews