

Sunday, November 2, 2025 “The Final Answer” Esther 7

God’s Providence: His constant care for and His absolute rule over all His creation, for His own glory and the good of His people.

God’s providence in our lives: last time I told you a very short synopsis of my life story at the beginning of the message, how he led us to serve him for 35 years in three different churches and blessed us with three children and four grandchildren. And weren’t we all blessed by Ken Issac’s last weekend as he shared about God’s providence in his life. His ministry with Samaritan’s Purse is amazing as he recounted, time after time, God directing the thoughts, words and actions of men and women, enabling him and others to run safely into the fire, helping those in need. He is probably in Jamacia or Gaza this morning, once again trusting in God’s providence to guide and protect he and his team. Hopefully, you are praying for him!

As we are reminded in Proverbs 16.9 *In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.*

Once again, we return to the book of Esther, where we see God at work among his exiled children in Persia, **even though his name is never mentioned**. We’ve met **Xerxes**, the king of Persia, who chose **Esther**, a Jewish orphan raised by her cousin **Mordecai** and his wife, to become queen. And we’ve met **Haman**, the king’s second in command, who, because of his hatred of Jews, has just convinced Xerxes to have all the Jews in the vast Persian empire to be killed, because one Jew, Mordecai, refused to give him honor. Mordecai challenged Esther to intercede with the king on behalf all the Jews living in Persia. He spoke these words to her in chapter 4, verse 15 **Esther 4.15** *“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”* Esther took those words to heart and in chapter 5, Xerxes showed favor to Esther, who invited the king and Haman to a banquet. Unwilling to give her request to the king, we saw, in chapter 6, she invited them to another banquet the next day. The king’s sleepless night and providential reading led him to have Haman honor Mordecai, the last thing that he would ever want to do. So today, we look at chapter 7, where we’ll see three questions and three answers.

GO THROUGH TEXT

Two takeaways:

God gives us the courage we need, in just the right way and just the right time. Esther seemed to be hesitant to ask the king for his favor and then hesitant in the first banquet to ask him to rescue herself and her people. Lots of reasons: relationship with the king,

unannounced/capital punishment, King's relationship with Haman, her age, her faith. However, when the time came, she was ready! She trusted in God! Joshua could have had the same hesitation, but God challenged and encouraged him as he led the Israelites into the Promised Land. **Ephesians 6.10-13** Be courageous and act like you trust in God!

Apart for God's grace, we are Haman. His pride was as enormous as his wealth, and he put his trust in both. He allowed anger and resentment to control his emotions. His character was flawed and his decisions backed it up. He got what he deserved. He was judged by Xerxes and deemed guilty. His friendship failed to provide the mercy he needed. Before you get excited about Haman receiving what he was due, be reminded that, because of God's enormous grace and mercy, we do not. **Ephesians 2.** Segway to Table.

Luke 12.12 The Holy Spirit will give you the words to say at the moment when you need them.

Proverbs 16.5 The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 16.13 He who answers before listening— that is his folly and his shame.

Proverbs 19.12 A king's rage is like the roar of a lion,

Proverbs 11.8 The righteous man is rescued from trouble, and it comes on the wicked instead.

Galatians 6.7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Ephesians 6.10-13 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Ephesians 2.1-5 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

