

The Chosen Life: Studies in Esther

Esther Ch. 7

Inductive Women's Bible Study – Lesson 7

Have you ever dreaded having a certain conversation with someone? No matter how many times you rehearse it in your mind, it doesn't get any easier. The prospect of speaking to the king must have weighed on Esther as she prepared for the second banquet. She had promised to tell her husband what was bothering her, but oh! She must frame her thoughts carefully, choose her words wisely. If Haman's treachery is to be exposed, Esther must confront him to his face. Without openly accusing the king, she must plead for her life and the lives of her people.

Put yourself in Esther's shoes. How would you have approached this difficult discussion? Proverbs 25:15 says, "By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded, and a gentle tongue breaks a bone." Esther waited patiently and prayerfully for the right moment to speak. And in that moment of truth, her wise words persuaded the king and broke the bone of her enemy.



Getting started. Find a quiet place to study. Take your Bible, your lesson and any other study tools you want to use. Plan to spend about an hour each day on your lesson. **Pray.** Take time to settle your heart, focus your thoughts and ask the Lord to help you see with clear eyes.

"Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in Your law." – Psalm 119:18 NLT

Esther Ch. 7 Read the passage, without interruption, two or three times. If possible, read from more than one Bible translation. Briefly describe in your own words what you have read.

With each lesson, a “working” text is provided for your convenience. You can use this to scribble notes, write down word definitions, highlight events—whatever you find useful to your own personal study. The translation used will vary from week to week.

Working Text for Esther Ch. 7

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. 2 And on the second day, as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king again said to Esther, “What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”

3 Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be granted me for my wish, and my people for my request. 4 For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have been silent, for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king.” 5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who had dared to do this?” 6 And Esther said, “A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

7 And the king arose in his wrath from the wine-drinking and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that harm was determined against him by the king.

8 And the king returned from the palace garden to the place where they were drinking wine, as Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. And the king said, “Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?” As the word left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman’s face. 9 Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Moreover, the gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, is standing at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” 10 And the king said, “Hang him on that.” So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king abated.



You can also use this section to jot down your own thoughts and impressions about people and events. What do you observe about Esther's character? What do you observe in the character and behavior of others in the story?

Esther 7:7–10

Bible Facts and Information:

My Research and Observations:



INTERPRETATION – *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as, “Is there a command to obey? A promise to claim? A condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**



APPLICATION – *How does it apply to me?*

We don't study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new lesson, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Esther 7:1–6

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Esther 7:7–10

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it. _____



Take a Closer Look

And Esther said, “The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!”

Esther 7:6a

For nearly a week, Esther has waited to plead her case with the king. Now, at the moment of truth, she does not hesitate to confront the enemy of her people. Though the Bible doesn't record it, Esther's revelation must have been met by stunned silence. The king was astonished that *anyone* would threaten his queen. As Xerxes begins putting the pieces together, his fury rises and Haman's shock turns to terror. He is exposed and powerless, caught in a trap of his own making.

We are reminded that God does not allow wickedness to go unpunished. At times, it seems the enemy has the upper hand, but we can be certain that God will not allow His people to be overcome or destroyed. Take a closer look with an eye to discover how to deal with the enemy.

“This wicked Haman!”

Esther didn't mince words about Haman. She knew he was wicked! Haman thought he could do whatever he wanted, with no consequences. He despised God's people and used his influence with the king to make them suffer. *Why do the wicked prosper?* The prophet Jeremiah asked God that question (Jeremiah 12:1). We can find ourselves asking the same question as we look around the world we live in. Godless behavior is applauded, rewarded, even admired.

Do the wicked prosper? It seems so in the short run. But God sees the big picture. The following verses will help us to see this from God's perspective and make it our own. As you read, look for instructions, promises and warnings. Share what you find.

Proverbs 4:19 _____

Proverbs 5:21–23 _____

Proverbs 16:5 _____

Psalms 37:1–11 _____

(Note: Psalm 37 speaks about the ultimate outcome for those who live righteously and those who live wickedly. You may want to study this entire psalm on your own.)

“The adversary and enemy...”

How does Esther’s example teach us to deal with the adversary? Let’s briefly retrace her steps. First, she determined to obey the Lord, *do or die*. Then she spent time on her knees before God. Here, she found courage to overcome her fears and wisdom to navigate through her perilous situation. God was with her every step of the way.

1 Peter 5:8 says, “Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith...”

In *practical* terms, what can we do to resist the enemy?

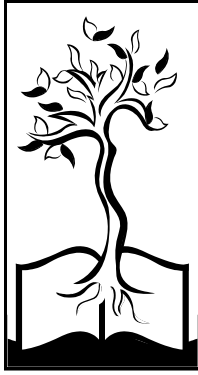
Psalm 119:11 _____

Philippians 4:6–8 _____

Ephesians 6:13–18 _____

Here is something to consider. Haman appeared to be a formidable enemy until Esther confronted him *in the king’s presence*. What weapon did she use? Truth. In light of the facts, wicked Haman was exposed and powerless.

Do you need an extra measure of assurance that God will protect you against the “wicked Hamans” of life? Read and reflect on Romans 8:31–39. Share what encourages you the most from this passage.



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

"Everything the devil does, God overreaches to serve His own purpose."

— Oswald Chambers —

