

Recap of 10/13/19 (Esther 6:1-7:2):

1. The story of Esther now turns on such an improbable thing as the King's insomnia. Because he could not sleep, King Xerxes had the Chronicles of the Court (journals of the daily events of his reign) read to him. Out of 12 years' worth of journals, the one selected to be read is the one containing the account of Mordecai reporting a plot upon Xerxes life (2:23). He discovers that Mordecai had not been rewarded for his loyalty. Now we understand why Mordecai had not been rewarded previously; and we see God's heretofore unseen hand moving people and events to further His purposes.
2. "God is at work on your behalf right now, through the coincidences of your life." (Richards)
3. "Have you considered lately that your neighbors, your career, and your fellow employees figure into God's design for your life? Are you aware of your untapped resources, past experiences, and personal contacts that could be used for God's purposes? Nothing about you is a coincidence—in fact, everything about you is vitally useful for accomplishing God's work." (365 Life Lessons)
4. Haman is pressed into service, by Xerxes, to honor Mordecai for his act of bravery in exposing the conspirators. Instead of executing Mordecai on the gallows Haman has built, he finds himself leading Mordecai through the streets of the city on the King's horse, wearing the King's robe, shouting before him: "This is what is done for the man the King delights to honor."
5. Afterward, in grief, Haman rushes home to tell his wife, friends, and advisers about this turn of events. They sense the danger that Haman is in and they unwittingly (or maybe prophetically) express the central thrust of the Book of Esther: "Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him—you will surely come to ruin" (vs. 13b). No one can stand against God's people and succeed.
6. Haman is a Picture of the unbeliever today, content with pursuing possessions and position which don't matter for eternity, all the while sensing something is missing; under the sentence of death (Chapter 7) but not knowing it.