

Message #12**Esther 6:1-14**

There are times in all of our lives when we feel all alone and threatened, totally surrounded by people and circumstances that are ugly and problematic. When we are in the midst of the trial or hardship, we can begin to forget that our God is still sovereign and He is working out all things for our good. I am totally convinced that when all is said and done, what appeared to us to be a problem or threat or hassle will wind up being used by God to make our lives beautiful. If ever there is a remarkable illustration of this, it is the book of Esther, and if ever there is a chapter in Esther that reveals this, it is Esther 6.

IN THE PERFECT TIMING OF GOD, HE WILL DELIVER HIS FAITHFUL PEOPLE WHO ARE SURROUNDED BY VARIOUS THREATS AND WILL SWIFTLY AND COMPLETELY DESTROY THOSE WHO ARE CAUSING THE PROBLEMS.

It is no coincidence that God stepped in “after” Esther decided to do what was right and “after” Haman decided to kill Mordecai. God wants His people to be obedient. He never does anything before the right time or behind the right time; He does everything in exactly the right time.

The sovereignty of God must never become a crutch for disobedience or apathy. The doctrine of God’s sovereignty does not replace the doctrine of human responsibility.

H. A. Ironside wrote: “It has been well said that although the name of God is not in this book, the hand of God is plainly to be seen throughout” (Ironside, p. 66).

SOVEREIGN DEMONSTRATION #1 – God’s sovereignty controlled the king’s insomnia.
6:1a

We would do well to remember that the king has just come from a banquet which featured much drinking of wine (5:6). Alcohol is a depressant and usually makes one drowsy and sleepy.

King Asahuerus couldn’t sleep. Initially it seems like such a little thing, but the real question is “why” couldn’t the king sleep? The answer is because of the sovereignty of God.

Dr. C. I. Scofield said, “Here is a remarkable instance of the veiled providential control of God over circumstances of human history. Upon the king’s insomnia, humanly speaking, hinged the survival of the chosen nation, the fulfillment of prophecy, the coming of the Redeemer, and therefore the whole work of redemption. Yet the outcome was never in doubt; for God was in control, making the most trivial of events work together for Haman’s defeat and Israel’s preservation” (*New Scofield Reference Bible*, p. 697).

We must never underestimate God’s sovereign ability to work in seemingly little and insignificant things. It was a wicker basket floating in the Nile that changed Israel’s history through Moses (Ex. 2:3-5).

It was a delivered lunch that changed Israel's history through David (I Sam. 17:17). It was an empty fishing net that changed the world through Peter, James and John (Luke 5:2-10). It was an empty animal barn in Bethlehem that changed the universe through the birth of baby Jesus. God is sovereign even over little things.

SOVEREIGN DEMONSTRATION #2 – God's sovereignty controlled the king's remedy.
6:1b-3

The king had a remedy for insomnia; it was having Persian historical records read to him. There is certainly nothing like the reading of historical minutes to put you to sleep.

Fact #1 - There was an accurate record of historical events. **2:23**

God can and does work through systematic things.

Fact #2 - There was an honest report given by Esther. **2:22**

Had Esther previously in any way distorted facts concerning Mordecai, He would have been a loser here.

Fact #3 - There was a specific reading of Mordecai's faithfulness. **6:2**

It was no coincidence that the king couldn't sleep, nor that he decided to read, nor that he specifically read of Mordecai's faithfulness, for God was sovereignly controlling even the reading material of the king.

Fact #4 - There should have been a specific reward given to Mordecai. **6:3**

Four or five years had passed since Mordecai had saved the king's life. It appeared as though he would receive nothing for his faithfulness, but at just the right time, at just God's time, Mordecai would be fully rewarded.

SOVEREIGN DEMONSTRATION #3 – God's sovereignty controlled the enemies' actions.
6:4-6

What an opposing scene this is. What a conflicting picture to observe. Haman wants to hang Mordecai and the king wants to reward Mordecai.

It should not surprise us that when God is moving things in a positive way, an enemy will show up on the scene to try and move things in a negative way.

SOVEREIGN DEMONSTRATION #4 – God’s sovereignty controlled the enemies’
suggestions. **6:7-9**

The words “Haman said to himself” (**6:6**) literally mean in Hebrew he said in his heart. Haman really thought in his own heart that the king wanted to honor him.

Suggestion #1 - Give the honoree a royal robe. **6:8a**

Suggestion #2 - Give the honoree a royal horse. **6:8b**

Suggestion #3 - Give the honoree a royal crown. **6:8c**

Suggestion #4 - Give the honoree a royal parade. **6:9**

Haman had money, he had family, he had friends, he had position, he had power, he had prestige, but he didn’t have the status or favor of the king and in just a few hours he would be dead because he didn’t have the favor of God.

SOVEREIGN DEMONSTRATION #5 – God’s sovereignty controlled Mordecai’s elevation.
6:10-12a

Proverbs 14:19 says, “The evil will bow down before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.”

Vengeance is the Lord’s and He will repay our enemies (Rom. 12:19).

Haman had thought evil against Mordecai for a long time and it was now payback time and God was sovereignly overseeing the payback.

SOVEREIGN DEMONSTRATION #6 – God’s sovereignty controlled the enemies’
environment. **6:12b-14**

Deep in the hearts and deep in the minds of those who are enemies of God and his faithful servants is the harsh reality that someday they will lose. Deep inside they know they are fighting a losing cause and it is just a matter of time until God will track them down.

For Haman, things in his life were now running totally out of control and the reason why was because the sovereignty of God was in control.

There are many lessons to be learned from Esther 6:

- 1) Even when God’s people go beyond the borders of where God wants them to be, God is still with them and will care for them.
- 2) The King does not give royal honor to the proud, but to the humble.
- 3) Faithful, loyal service which may seem to be temporarily unnoticed will eventually be greatly rewarded.
- 4) Little episodes of faithfulness often lead to big moments of blessing.
- 5) When God honors the righteous, He also humbles their enemies.
- 6) God delivers His attacked servants in His perfect time and ways.
- 7) God is completely sovereign—He will reward those faithful and He will punish those wicked.