

Mordecai Honored

Esther 6

by Don Falkos

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The king had trouble sleeping. He ordered an attendant to read to him from the official records. The records spoke of an assassination plot foiled by Mordecai some five years earlier.

Xerxes said, "I had forgotten about that. How did we honor Mordecai for saving my life?"

His attendants replied, "Nothing has been done for him."

Just then Haman came in, eager to see the king and propose Mordecai's execution. The king asked him, "What should I do for a man I wish to honor?"

Haman thought the king was referring to him. He didn't ask for riches; he already had more than he needed. Instead he suggested honors that would also flatter the king. "Dress the man in one of your own royal robes. Put him on a horse that you yourself have ridden – a horse with a royal crest on its head. Have the man led through the streets on the back of your horse accompanied by shouts of, 'This is what the king does for the one he wishes to honor!' "

"Excellent!" said the king. "Go at once and do exactly as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew."

Haman was horrified. But he took the king's robe and put it on Mordecai. He helped Mordecai mount the king's own horse. He led Mordecai on horseback through the city, shouting, "This is what the king does for the one he wishes to honor!"

Afterward Mordecai went back to his place at the palace gate, but Haman hurried home completely humiliated. While he was still commiserating with his wife and friends, the king's servants arrived and took him to Queen Esther's banquet.