

-Save This Page as a PDF-

The King Gave His Signet Ring to Mordecai

8: 1-2

The king gave his signet ring to Mordecai DIG: Why did the king's fury subside? How did Haman's estate end up in the possession of Esther, and being managed by Mordecai? What was the importance of the signet ring? How is the fall of Haman pictured as being complete? As important as these developments were, what was Esther's bigger concern?

REFLECT: When was the last time your pride got you into trouble? If you can't remember, I guess that's a good thing! But if it did, what did you learn? Have you ever received money from a settlement or an inheritance? What did you do with it? Were you a good steward? Or a prodigal son or daughter? How do you use power? To benefit yourself, or to serve others? Aside from your faith, what cause are you involved in that's bigger than yourself?

Haman was gone, but the evil plan that he had set in motion was taking on a life of its own. **The king's fury subsided** after **Haman** was impaled (7:10). This implies that **the** ruthless **king** was not angry because **Haman** had plotted to wipe out an entire race of people from **his** kingdom, even if they were **Esther's** people, for that was still a reality. No, apparently **the king's** pride had been greatly hurt when **Haman** fell on the couch with **her** (7:8). Ironically, **Haman's** injured pride had driven **him** to plot the destruction and downfall of **Mordecai** and **the Jews**; whereas, **the king's** injured pride had driven **him** to impale **Haman**. The death of **Haman** set off a series of shocking reversals.⁸⁸

That same day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews (8:1a). Apparently **Haman** was considered a criminal, for **his** property was confiscated that very day. As **Haman** had offered **the king ten thousand talents of silver** (or about 375 tons or 340 metric tons equivalent to several tens of millions dollars today) as incentive to massacre **the Jews of Persia (3:9)**, it obviously included great riches. According to Josephus (*Ant. 11.17*), and one narrative of Herodotus (3.12), the property of a condemned criminal reverted to **the king**.⁸⁹ This was assumed by the Phoenician Jezebel (**First Kings 21:7-16**), and shown operative in **Persia** in the reign of Darius by the Greek historian Herodotus. Orontes the **Persian** was killed for his betrayal of Polycrates, and his

money confiscated and sent to the **Persian** capital of Susa for **the king's** pleasure.⁹⁰

And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her (8:1b). We don't know how much time elapsed between **Mordecai** being rewarded and **Queen Esther** revealing that **she** was related to **him**. There were two months and ten days between **Haman's** edict (**3:7**) and the new edict (**8:9**). This actually helped **Mordecai's** standing before **the king**.



In almost identical language, **Mordecai** receives **the signet ring** once given to **Haman**. It was the same **signet ring** that had been used to seal the edict against **the Jews (3:10)**. **The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai (8:2a).** **The signet ring** was given to the prime minister (see my commentary on **Genesis, to see link click Jv - Joseph as Prime Minister**). So yet another reversal of fortunes is seen, even after **Haman's** death. For one thing, **Mordecai** received the power previously given to **Haman**. For another, **Haman**, who had hoped to confiscate the property of **the Jews (3:13)**, now had **his** own property confiscated and given to, of all people, **Esther**, who then **appointed Mordecai to over** see it. Two **Jews**. **Providence!**

Esther needed an **estate manager and she appointed Mordecai over Haman's** fortune (**8:2b**). ADONAI's intervention becomes even clearer as **Mordecai** receives everything **Haman** wanted: property, power, and position. The fall of **Haman** was then complete and totally balanced by the rise of the one **he** had planned to overthrow and destroy. At that time **Esther** was the source and the means of wealth and empowerment for **Mordecai**.

If this were only a story about the conflict between **Haman** and **Esther** and **Mordecai**, this scene would have been the anticlimactic point where the righteous people are rewarded for their courage and loyalty. But the story is far more than that. **Esther** had requested to save

the Jews, and that is what we see next.

*Dear Heavenly Father, Life on earth seems so real, but it will be over soon and either heaven or hell will be the reality forever! **And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after this judgment, (Hebrews 9:27).** Heaven and hell are both real. Heaven will be so wonderful, living with God and enjoying peace and happiness forever. **Behold, the dwelling of God is among men, and He shall tabernacle among them. They shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them and be their God. He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Nor shall there be mourning or crying or pain any longer, for the former things have passed away (Revelation 21:3b-4).***

*God wants all to enter heaven - but only those who repent from their sins and turn in love to God will be saved. **The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some consider slowness. Rather, He is being patient toward you - not wanting anyone to perish, but for all to come to repentance (Second Peter 3:9).** How wonderful that God will give Yeshua's righteousness to all who love God with all their heart, rather than loving themselves the most. **He made the One who knew no sin to become a sin offering on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (Second Corinthians 5:21).***

*Praise You for Your gracious gift of salvation **(Ephesians 2:8-9)** to all who love and follow You. This world with all its problems will soon be over and for all who love You - life will hold peace and joy for all eternity with You in heaven! I thank You by living my life full of love for You! In Yeshua's holy name and power of His resurrection. Amen*