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But Mordecai Found Out About the Plot and Told Esther,
Who Reported It to the King
2: 21-23

But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Esther, who reported it to the king DIG: Subplots abound: Secrecy, faithfulness, and assassins! Which one most concerns Ahasuerus? Mordecai? Esther? Why? What was the Persian method of execution? What should the king have done for Mordecai?

REFLECT: In your life, what do you see more of: Fate? Chance? Design? Or destiny? Explain. Have you ever done a great job on something, only to have your efforts go unappreciated or even acknowledged? How did it make you feel?

After **Esther's** coronation the unsuccessful contestants **(the virgins)** who were not chosen by **the king, were assembled a second time (2:19a).** That same day **Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate (2:19b, 2:21, 3:2, 5:9** and **13, 6:10** and **12).** It seems that by the date of **her** coronation, **Esther** already had **her** cousin appointed a magistrate or judge, which was a lesser position in the elaborate hierarchy of Persian officials. In all probability, the queen couldn't have given **him** a higher position without disclosing **her** relationship to him.

The gate was the court for commercial and legal business **(Ruth 4:1-11)**. **The king's gate** was the entrance to his palace, the citadel that towered above Susa. There **the king's** officials sat **(Proverbs 31:23)**, and people seeking justice could come and stand before them. If archaeological evidence from Susa has been correctly interpreted, the gate built by Ahasuerus' father, Darius, measured 131 by 92 feet. **The king's gate** opened into a large building consisting of a central hall that led into the royal compound and two rectangular side rooms. The central hall was supported by four columns with trilingual inscription on the bases that read, "By the grace of Aura Mazda (the creator and upholder of truth in the Persian

pantheon), the Gate, Darius **the King** made it, he who was my father." The excavation of **the king's gate and the square in front of it** correspond well to the details of the palace given by the author of **Esther (4:6)**, indicating that the author was familiar with the palace complex at Susa.[31]

During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway. **Consequently, they need to be his most trusted servants.** However, they **became angry and conspired to assassinate King Ahasuerus (2:21).** These two men guarded with their life the door of the royal house, but in doing so they had unique opportunities to conspire against **the king**. **According to the Targum, they plotted to poison his wine, but the cause of their anger is not stated directly.** Many monarchs have died at the hands of their own servants, eventually including **Ahasuerus**.



But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai (2:22). **The rabbis teach that Mordecai's discovery of the plot was by God's design, not by Mordecai's wisdom.** It should not be surprising that **Mordecai** just happened to be at the exact right place, at the exact right time to overhear a **plot** against **the king**. It was no accident that **Esther** was **his** niece and he could report the plot to the very person who had access to **the king**. **Providence!**

Dear Wise Heavenly Father, It is such a comfort to know that you are the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe. Nothing happens by accident! You are Almighty and All powerful. No evil person nor evil government are a match for Your wisdom and power. You always are victorious. ***Blessed be the Name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. He changes times and seasons. He removes kings and installs kings (Dani'el 2:20-21a).***

What a comfort it is to know that though I do not know what trials or problems may come with tomorrow; I do know for sure that my home for all eternity will be with

You in Your holy heaven, because I have chosen to love/follow and to trust/confess You as my Lord and Savior ***(Romans 10:9-10).*** *Praise Your love that sent Yeshua to die and rise on the third day* ***(First Corinthians 15:4-6),*** *thereby granting His perfect righteousness to all who choose to love and to follow Him as their Lord and Savior.* ***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 being such a wonderful Heavenly Father. I do not fear anything in the future; but I trust in Your eternal love. In Yeshua's name and power of His resurrection. Amen*

And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were impaled on poles (2:23a). Many years later, **King Ahasuerus** was killed in an assassination **plot**. But for now, ADONAI protects him, so that God's own purposes can be fulfilled.[32] Rather than being hanged by the neck on a modern-type gallows, the men were impaled with nails on a wooden pole in public view, as a lesson to the populace. This was not an unusual method of execution in the Persian Empire. Darius, the father of **Ahasuerus**, was known to have once impaled 3,000 men.

By making known to **Esther** what has happening, **Mordecai** saved the life of **the king**, who, like the butler in **Genesis** (see my commentary on **Genesis, to see link click Jo– Then the Chief Baker said to Joseph: I Too Had a Dream**), promptly forgot the man who saved him. The would-be assassins were hung and **all this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king (2:23b), literally, *the book of the acts of the day*. This was in the nature of a royal diary. The ancient kings of Babylon, Assyria and Hebrew kings kept such annals as well.** Persian kings normally rewarded acts of loyalty very quickly and generously. But **Mordecai** was not even thanked for **his** faithfulness.[33]

Just like **Mordecai,** we may deserve credit, appreciation, or reward for something we've done or accomplished. Maybe we weren't acknowledged publicly for our efforts in completing a project and others were. Or maybe our boss took credit for the contract we got. We can't expect to receive all the credit we deserve, but ADONAI knows everything we do. Even if we don't get the credit now – even in our lifetime – the LORD will generously reward us in heaven.[34] Some of the rewards will be crowns we'll wear there (see my commentary on **Revelation Cc – For We Must All Appear Before the Judgment Seat of Christ**).

So at this point in the story, **Esther** has been introduced as the new queen, and

Mordecai has a place of high standing at the king's gate. Vashti has exited almost as fast as she entered, yet she will be remembered throughout because any reference to Queen **Esther** will remind us of whose place **she** took. **Ahasuerus** is consumed with power, and yet powerless, as the sovereignty of ADONAI unfolds behind the scenes.[35]