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## Calamity Averted by Esther

### 4:4 to 9:19



The insubordination of **Mordecai** brought about the mortal threat that required **Esther** to disobey **the king (4:11)**. **Her** natural desire to obey was confronted by the need to save **her** people from death. The obedience to **king** and husband had to give way to the overriding importance of saving the people of ADONAI. Once convinced that **she** must identify herself with the needs of the Jews, **she** acted with courage and became a leader who took the initiative and changed the dynamic.

Nothing has been said so far in the book to suggest either **Esther** or **Mordecai** were people of great faith in **the LORD**. But here it is revealed that they at least believed that God was concerned for the welfare of His **chosen people (Deuteronomy 7:6)**. In this climatic section we can see the **providence** of God working behind the scenes on behalf of His own. Although the name of ADONAI is not overtly mentioned (**To see link click [Ac](#) - [The Book of Esther from a Jewish Perspective: Unique Characteristics](#)**), He is surely in control.

The chiasmic structure of the entire book is easily observable. This indicates the great degree of literary awareness of the human author. The turning point is **the king's** sleepless night (**6:1**), around which the chiasmic structure is constructed.<sup>57</sup>

A Opening and background (**Chapter 1**)

B The king's first decree (**Chapters 2 and 3**)



**C** Haman tries to destroy Mordecai (**Chapters 4 and 5**)

**D That night the king could not sleep (6:1)**

**C** Mordecai's triumph over Haman (**Chapters 6 and 7**)

**B** The king's second decree (**Chapters 8 and 9**)

**A** Epilogue (**Chapter 10**)