

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 (see *Unique Characteristics in AC - The Book of Esther from a Jewish Perspective*), 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.⁵⁷

- 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**)