

## 26.04 Haman's Embarrassment (Esther 6:1–14)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud; they also show answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional needed materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- A royal-looking “robe” that fits a student

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print on colorful cardstock and cut apart.

- *chamberlains*: servants who serve inside the house, even in the bedroom, of a master; the most trusted of servants
- *to guard the threshold*: “Guardianship of the threshold was a role of importance, ensuring the safety . . . of the household” ([Strong's Hebrew: 5605. שָׁפַח \(saphaph\) -- To stand at the threshold, to guard, to wait at the door](#)).
- *gallows*: a wooden frame with a rope for hanging people to death; Haman's gallows were 75 feet tall
- *history* or *chronicles*: writings that tell what has happened in the past. Although history books (chronicles) can be very interesting, some people think history is boring—so boring that they fall asleep when it is read. Mordecai's discovery that two chamberlains were plotting to strike down King Xerxes was written in the king's chronicles.

### Scripture: (ESV)

Esther 6:1 On that night the king could not sleep. And he gave orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles, and they were read before the king. 2 And it was found written how Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, and who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. 3 And the king said, “What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?” The king's young men who attended him said, “Nothing has been done for him.” 4 And the king said, “Who is in the court?” Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to speak to the king about having Mordecai hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for him. 5 And the king's young men told him, “Haman is there, standing in the court.” And the king said, “Let him come in.” 6 So Haman came in, and the king said to him, “What should be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?” And Haman said to himself, “Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?” 7 And Haman said to the king, “For the man whom the king delights to honor, 8 let royal robes be brought, which the king has worn, and the horse that the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown is set. 9 And let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble officials. Let them dress the man whom the king delights to honor, and let them lead him on the horse through the square of the city, proclaiming before him: ‘Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.’” 10 Then the king said to Haman, “Hurry; take the robes and the horse, as you have said, and do so to Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Leave out nothing that you have mentioned.” 11 So Haman took the robes and the horse, and he dressed Mordecai and led him through the square of the city, proclaiming before him, “Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.”

12 Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered. 13 And Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the Jewish people, you will not overcome him but will surely fall before him.”

14 While they were yet talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and hurried to bring Haman to the feast that Esther had prepared.

## **Introduction/Review:**

Haman, the king's chief prince, was so angry when Mordecai didn't bow to him that he determined to strike down all the Jews of Xerxes' kingdom. The order went out, and the Jews were dismayed, dressing in sackcloth and ashes and wailing in sadness and fear for their lives.

Mordecai sent a message to Esther, saying, "Maybe you were come to the kingdom just for this time in order to save us. Go before the king. Ask him for the lives of your people."

After three days of fasting, Esther did go before the king and invited him and Haman to a banquet that day. But at the banquet when the king asked what her petition was, Esther, because the time was not right, did not state her request but instead asked Xerxes and Haman to come to another banquet the next day.

Haman was delighted! He was "in tight" with the king and now the queen. Life couldn't get any better than this! But as he passed through the king's gate and saw Mordecai sitting instead of bowing, all his happiness fled. He thought, "I have to get rid of that Mordecai soon!"

Counseling with his wife and friends, he decided to have a gallows built 75 feet high. That's as high as two school buses, one 35 feet long and the other 40 feet long, would be if they could be stacked end to end. Haman said, "Tomorrow, before I go to Queen Esther's banquet, I'll ask the king to let me hang Mordecai. ✓'Tis as good as done! I'll finally be rid of that rascal!" ✓Satisfied with his plans, he went to bed with a smile on his face and slept all night.

## **Story:**

### ***Sleepless night***

In the palace, however, King Xerxes could not sleep that night. Finally, toward morning he ordered his chamberlains, ✓"Bring me the chronicles. Now, read. Maybe I'll get to sleep listening to you. Read in a monotone, not with expression."

The servant began reading: [Teacher, read in a monotone.] "Mordecai, who sits at the king's gate, told Esther, and Esther told King Xerxes, that two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthana and Teresh, keepers of the king's door, planned to slay King Xerxes. When inquiry was made, the plot was discovered to be true, and Bigthana and Teresh were hanged."

"Wait a minute! Stop reading!" ordered Xerxes. "What honor and reward has been given to Mordecai for saving the king's life?"

✓"Let me check," answered the chamberlain. "Why, I see nothing written in the chronicles."

✓Another servant answered, "I remember the incident. Nothing was done for Mordecai. He was never given any honor at all for his life-saving deed."

### ***Foiled plans***

By this time, it was morning and time for the king to begin his day's activities. In fact, Haman had already arrived in the outer court with the intention of asking to hang Mordecai.

"Who is in the court?" asked the king.

"It is Haman," answered a servant.

"Tell him to come in." Before Haman could even open his mouth to speak about hanging Mordecai, Xerxes asked, "What shall be done for the man whom the king wants to honor?"

"Hmm," Haman thought to himself. "Certainly, there is no man the king would delight to honor more than me." Then, to the king he said, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crown placed on its head. Let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes so that he may

place the robe on the man whom the king delights to honor. Parade the man on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: ‘Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!’”

Students, what did Haman suggest to do to honor a man? [(1) To have one of his most noble princes dress the man in a robe the king had worn; (2) to lead that man, seated on a horse the king had ridden, through the city; and (3) to announce, “This is what happens to a man whom the king wants to honor!”]

### ***Humiliating disgrace***

Haman, expecting to be honored, ✓ was totally horror-stricken when Xerxes ordered, “Go. Do everything you have said to Mordecai, the Jew who sits in the king’s gate. Hurry to do it, and don’t leave out one thing of all you have said.”

✓ Imagine Haman’s leaving the king, his head bowed, not in respect to the king but in shame and disgrace. After preparing the robe and horse, perhaps he felt nauseous as he held Xerxes’s robe for Mordecai to put his arms into the sleeves. [Teacher, take the “robe” you have brought and show Haman’s wretched facial expressions as you “dress” one of the students who is “Mordecai.”]

✓ With resentment in his voice despite the king’s order to honor Mordecai, he might have said. “Let’s go.” Then—oh, he didn’t want to, but he had been commanded to shout it—“Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!” Haman and Mordecai paraded through the city. “Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor! Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!”

### ***Problematic prophecy***

When the parade was done, Mordecai went back to his place by the king’s gate. But Haman covered his head in shame and ran home. There he told his wife and friends all that had happened that morning.

“Oh, oh,” they said, “this doesn’t look good at all.” Then they prophesied what might happen: “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the Jewish people, you will not be victorious against him but will surely fall before him.” Even Haman’s wife and friends thought Haman would lose this conflict. What do you think?

While they were still talking, the king’s chamberlains came and urged Haman, “Hurry up. It’s time for the queen’s banquet. Come on!”

That’s the end of our Bible story today. Who will win in this conflict, Haman or Mordecai? We will find out in our next lesson.

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- We see Jesus:  
Haman’s efforts to get Mordecai killed backfired on him. So Satan, in all his efforts to get Jesus crucified, didn’t realize that he was merely doing God’s will so that Satan’s power would be crushed (Genesis 3:15). Satan’s plan backfired.
- God’s timing is always right. Esther didn’t tell her request at the first banquet because it was not God’s time to do it. First, Xerxes needed to be awake all night to hear the history of Mordecai’s saving his life.
- Even in the darkest hour, our God is able to change events and attitudes in order to rescue His people.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: horse; crown for the horse; robe
- Snack: To emphasize Haman’s “sour” experience, serve oranges or grapefruit or another sour treat. Another suggestion is to have Hamantaschen again (see Lesson 26.02).

- Have students play-act, with appropriate facial expressions, Haman’s placing the robe on Mordecai.
- Ask students if they see anything missing in the picture of Mordecai on the horse (found on page 11 of this lesson). [It is the crown that was supposed to be on the horse’s head.]
- Sing the songs printed at the end of this lesson.
- Review questions: (Game: A student who answers a questions correctly may wear the “king’s robe” until a new question is asked and answered. That student then honors the next answerer by helping the new student put on the robe.)
  1. How did Xerxes try to get to sleep? [By having chronicles read to him.]
  2. Which “chronicle” got his attention? [The plot discovered by Mordecai to kill the king.]
  3. Haman thought the king wanted to honor whom? [Himself—Haman.]
  4. Name one of the three things Haman suggested be done for the honored man. [(1) To have one of his most noble princes dress the man in a robe the king had worn; (2) to lead that man, seated on a horse the king had ridden, through the city; and (3) to announce, “This is what happens to a man whom the king wants to honor!”]
  5. What did Haman’s wife and friends think about the turn of events that honored Mordecai? [Mordecai would prevail (win) over Haman.]

**Memory Verse[s]:**

- Psalm 46:1: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Handwork:**

- Make a grogger—a noise-maker to be shaken at Purim whenever Haman’s name is mentioned. Use the instructions for a grogger printed at the end of this lesson or at [Make Some Noise with These Groggers \(jewishjournal.com\)](http://www.jewishjournal.com). Keep these groggers for use in the next lesson.

***Chamberlains***

***to guard the threshold***

***gallows***

***history / chronicles***

## **SONGS TO SING AT PURIM** (The Jewish Holiday Celebrating the Jewish Triumph Over Haman's Decree)

### **When You Hear the Name** — (Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It")

When you hear the name of Haman, shake your grogger. (repeat 2x)  
When you hear the name of Haman (repeat 2x)  
When you hear the name of Haman, shake your grogger.

When you hear the name of Esther, clap your hands. (repeat 2x)  
When you hear the name of Esther, (repeat 2x)  
When you hear the name of Esther, clap your hands.

When you hear the name Xerxes, stamp your feet. (repeat 2x) [Original Jewish has Ahashueruos—too hard to say]  
When you hear the name Xerxes, (repeat 2x)  
When you hear the name Xerxes, stamp your feet

When you hear the name Mordecai, shout "Hooray!" (repeat 2x)  
When you hear the name Mordecai, (repeat 2x)  
When you hear the name Mordecai, shout "Hooray!"

When you know that Purim's near, do all four. (repeat 2x)  
When you know that Purim's near, (repeat 2x)  
When you know that Purim's near, do all four.

### **We Can Make a Hamentash** (Tune: "London Bridge")

We can make a hamentash, hamentash, hamentash,  
We can make a hamentash; it's so easy!

First, we knead and roll the dough, knead the dough, roll the dough.  
First, we knead and roll the dough. Now we cut it.

We will cut a circle shape, circle shape, circle shape.  
We will cut a circle shape. Now we fill it.

We will fill our hamentash, hamentash, hamentash.  
We will fill our hamentash with poppy seeds or jelly.

Now we fold and pinch the dough, fold the dough, pinch the dough.  
Now we fold and pinch the dough and put it in the oven.

Then we bake it nice and brown, nice and brown, nice and brown.  
Then we bake it nice and brown. Let it cool and eat it!

### **Patty Cake**

Patty cake, patty cake, baker's man,  
Bake me a hamentashen fast as you can.  
Roll it and fold it and make the corners three.  
Bake one for mommy and daddy and me.  
Patty cake, patty cake, baker's man,  
Bake me a hamentashen fast as you can.

### **Hamentashen** (Tune: "Are You Sleeping?")

Hamentashen, hamentashen, Are they good? Are they good?  
I could eat a million, I could eat a million,  
Yum, yum, yum! Yum, yum, yum!



[FreeBibleimages](#) :: [Queen Esther prays for help](#) :: [Queen Esther asks God to save her people from Haman \(Esther\)](#)

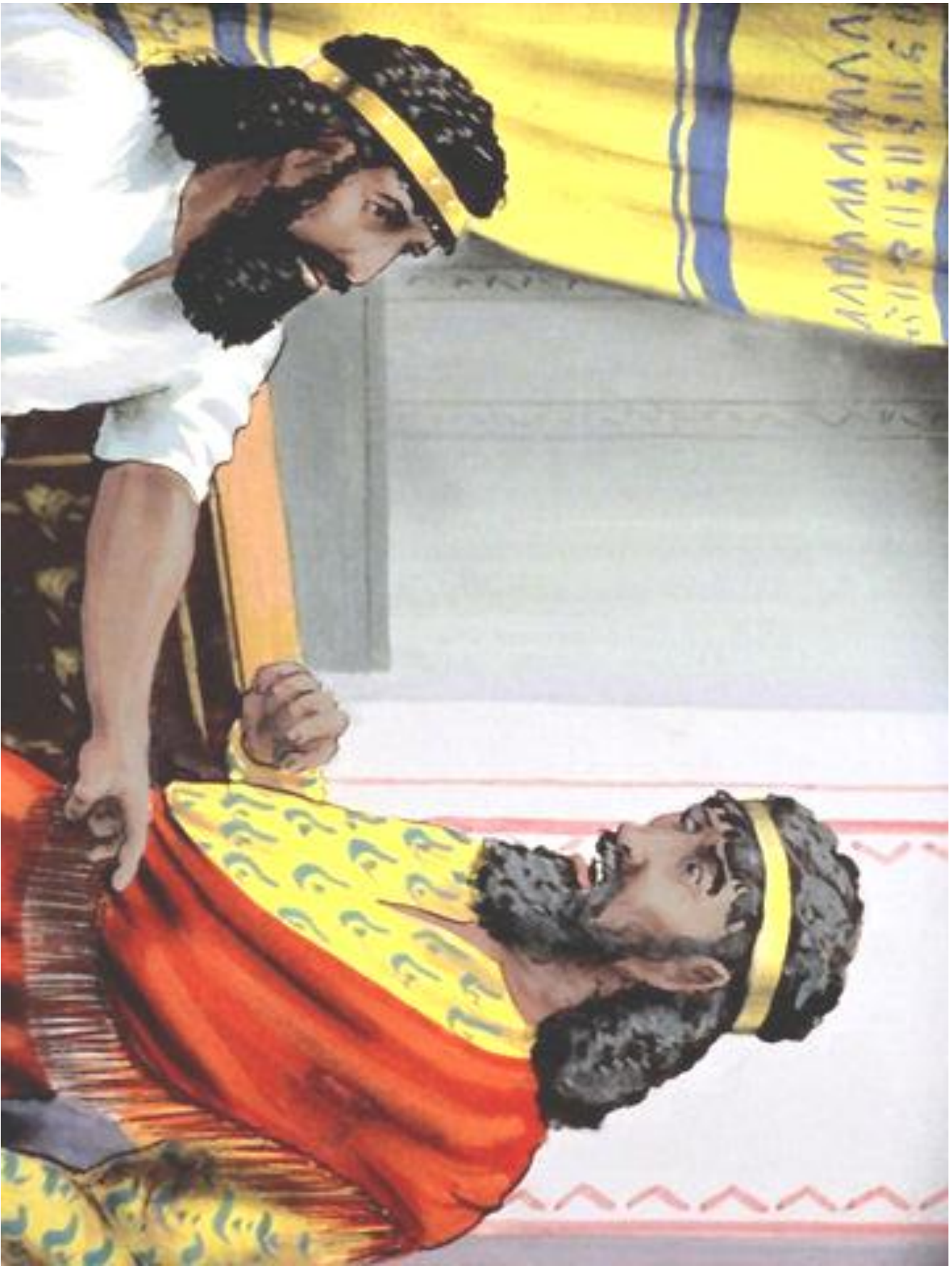


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# Groggers

Purim is a loud and raucous holiday. Adding to the din is the sound of “boos,” “hisses,” and noisemakers, called “groggers,” drowning out the villainous name of Haman every time it is heard during the reading of the Purim story. Below are a few ideas for you to create your own “groggers.” Have Fun!

## **Decorated Cans**

### **Materials:**

Cleaned powdered drink or frosting cans (or any small cylindrical containers) – with lids, remove the labels  
Seeds, beans or stones – CAUTION: Small objects can cause choking.

Colored masking tape, stickers, sticker dots, yarn

Markers, crayons

Colored construction paper precut to fit can

Glue

### **Directions**

1. Decorate the construction paper with masking tape, stickers, sticker dots, markers, and crayons. Use the template designs to draw hamentaschen, groggers, crowns, and megillah scrolls.
2. Once decorated, glue the decorated paper to the outside of the can. Fill the can with seeds, beans, or stones until it makes a sound the child likes. Let the child experiment with the different sounds.
3. Attach the lid by running glue along the inside edge of the lid. Let your grogger dry thoroughly.
4. Shake it when you hear Haman’s name!

This grogger idea is adapted from the Tastes of Jewish Tradition by: Jody Hirsh, Idy Goodman, Aggie Goldenholz and Susan Roth and was formerly found at <http://www.cjebaltimore.org/article.php?id=83>.