**Lesson 6**

**Esther 6**

**Warning Signals**

**Memory verse:** “There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord” (Prov. 21:30 NIV).

 On how small an incident do great events sometimes depend! “That night [after the banquet] the king could not sleep” (Esther 6:1). Xerxes decided to read. God has kept the news about the way Mordecai had saved the life of Xerxes *to this time –* just before Esther would plead for her people. *How perfect is God’s timing!* Haman “happened” to be in the court when the king spoke honouring Mordecai! How neatly did God cause Haman to fall into the very pit he had dug for Mordecai! Haman only happened to be in court when the king spoke of honouring Mordecai! How neatly did God cause Haman to fall into the very pit he had dug for Mordecai! Haman only happened to be in the court because he had come to apply to Xerxes for Mordecai’s death warrant. His own stupid conceit tripped him into setting up Mordecai to lead in that very triumphant parade which he had planned for himself.

You’ve probably seen the popular poster that reads:

“Today is the first day of the rest of your life.”

If anybody had said that to Haman as he left home early in the morning and hurried to the palace, they would have been wrong. They should have said, “Haman, today is the last day of your life!”

“As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live” (Ezek. 33:11).

“The Lord … is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9 NKJV).

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!” (Matt. 23:37 NKJV).

On the basis of these three verses, we’re safe in concluding that God’s desire for sinners is not that they die but that they turn from their sins and be saved.

There is joy in heaven when a sinner repents (Luke 15:7, 10), but the Lord won’t force people to turn from their sins and trust His Son. “I wanted to … but you

were not willing.”

As much as we detest Haman and his foul deeds, we must keep in mind that God loves sinners and wants to save them. God is longsuffering and brings various influences to bear upon people’s hearts as He seeks to turn them from their evil days. Surely, we will notice some of God’s influences at work in the events of this.

Summary: 1) God’s perfect timing. 2) A conceited heart. 3) Unheeded Warnings.

**Discussion questions:**

Q1 Once again, we see the sovereign hand of God invisibly at work in the life of King Xerxes. God was working out His purposes whether the king knew it or not. In verses 1 to 5, discuss the evidences of God’s providence of perfect timing in this event.

Q2 What would have caused the decisions made by Haman and King Xerxes in verses 6 to 10?

Q3 What were the results from the decisions of Haman and Xerxes and what lessons should we learn from that?