**Lesson 5**

**Esther 5**

**The Plan of Esther**

**Memory verse:** “For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He ponders all his paths. His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin. He shall die for lack of instruction and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray” (Prov.5:21–23 NKJV).

 Esther invited both the king and Haman, the prime minister to her banquet. Undoubtedly she intended to watch for the opportunity to present her case to the king in Haman’s presence so that Haman could not misrepresent the situation behind her back. She had prayed and fasted for three days over her plan. Obviously God led her to wait before openly charging Haman with his plot against her people. Meanwhile, God let Haman dig deep his pit for His enemy (Psalm 7:15). Not knowing Esther was a Jewess, in his self-confidence Haman thought nothing could hinder his progress to the top and he prepared a seventy-fie-foot tree on his estate to become a gallows on which he planned to hang Mordecai.

**I**n recent years, the news media have had a heyday reporting the questionable (and usually illegal) behaviour of well known people, including professional athletes, politicians, preachers, presidents of financial institutions, and even royalty. From “Watergate” to “Iran Gate” to “Pearly Gate,” the investigative reporters have been kept busy digging up news to satisfy the public’s insatiable appetite for scandal.

If all this journalistic activity accomplished nothing else, it certainly underscored the significance of the biblical warning, “Be sure your sin will find you out” (Num. 32:23 NKJV). People may succeed for a time in covering up disgraceful activities, but eventually the truth surfaces, and everybody knows what’s going on. And the culprit discovers that *the wrong we do to others, we do to ourselves.*

The words of Psalm 7:14–16 make us think of Haman: “He who is pregnant with evil and conceives trouble gives birth to disillusionment. He who digs a hole and scoops it out falls into the pit he has made. The trouble he causes recoils on himself; his violence comes down on his own head” (NIV).

There is a law of retribution in this world declaring that the person who maliciously seeks to destroy others ends up destroying himself. The French existentialist Albert Camus wrote in his novel *The Fall:* “There’s no need to hang about waiting for the last judgment—it takes place every day.”

Though the mills of God grind slowly,

yet they grind exceeding small;

Though with patience He stands waiting,

with exactness grinds He all.

Friedrich von Logau

Haman didn’t realize it, forces had already begun to work together to destroy him.

Summary:

1) Divine Sovereignty 2)False confidence 3) Malice

**Discussion questions:**

Q1 Why didn’t Esther immediately inform the king about Haman’s evil plot?

Q2 Are there evidences of the sovereignty of God in this chapter?

Q3 False confidence, pride and malice led to the fall of Haman. What lessons can we learn from these factors?