

ESTHER: YOU WERE MADE FOR THIS MOMENT
2: A GRUDGE LEADS TO GENOCIDE—ESTHER 2:21-4:17
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I. THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF REVENGE

If you seek revenge you should dig two graves. One for the person you are taking revenge against and one for yourself.

Adapted from Confucius

Revenge proves its own executioner.

John Ford, *The Broken Heart*

Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the LORD. Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.” Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

Romans 12:19-21 (NLT)

II. MORDECAI SAVES THE KING—2:21-23

For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.

Hebrews 6:10 (NLT)

III. HAMAN PLANS THE GENOCIDE—3:1-25

- 1. Haman the Agagite is promoted (v.1)**
- 2. Mordecai refuses to bow to Haman (v.2-4)**
- 3. Haman’s ancestral grudge turns to genocide (v.5-15)**
 - He is enraged at Mordecai’s lack of respect (v.5-6)**
 - He casts purim (lots) to pick a date for the massacre (v.7)**

- He receives King Xerxes permission and offers to pay (v.8-11)
- He gets the decree issued and news spread to all the provinces (v.12-15)

IV. ESTHER RESPONDS TO THE TERRIBLE NEWS—4:1-17

1. Mordecai and the Jews go into mourning (v.1-6)
2. Mordecai tells Esther about what is happening (v.7-9)
3. Esther informs Mordecai of a problem with seeing the king (v.10-12)
4. Mordecai confronts Esther about the need for her to take action (v.13-14)
5. Esther and the Jews fast for three days (v.15-16a)
6. Esther decides she must act: “If I must die, I must die” (v.16b-17)

V. “TAKE AWAYS” FROM ESTHER CHAPTERS 3 AND 4

1. **Be confident that God has a plan that will fulfill His purpose in His perfect timing**

For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

2. **Know that God has a reason for you being right where you are right now**

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

Acts 17:26-27 (NIV)

3. **Never forget the power of one person**

Any one of you can defeat a thousand enemy soldiers, because the Lord God fights for you, just as he promised.

Joshua 23:10 (CEV)