

The Building of the Gallows / Execution Tower (Esther 5:14)

It seemed like a good idea to Haman, but it turned out very badly for him - but good for the Jews.

The ESV has "idea" instead of "thing" in 5:14. This is the only use of "idea" in the ESV

I. INSIGHT

- . . Zeresh, Haman's wife, had psychological insight - that the evil plan would change Haman's mood.
- . . And her plan worked psychologically (much like Jezebel's evil plan in 1 Kgs. 21:5-16).
- . . The plan was contrary to (Mordecai's) biblical insight regarding the Jews and the Amalekites.
- . . Zeresh may have known something about such (6:13).

D. DETAILS

- . . The main detail given is the 50 cubits high of the gallows.
- . . The high was excessive, probably for psychological impact on Haman.
- . . It probably appealed to his pride and overflowing hatred.
- . . The details about how the gallows was built so quickly in one night are not stated.
- . . This keeps the emphasis on the excessive high.

E. ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM

- . . Haman's enthusiasm for the idea was based on enmity (5:9).
- . . Enmity / hatred is a powerful motivator.
- . . This was like Hitler's enmity (and pride) based enthusiasm.
- . . There was no enthusiasm for God or good - no love.
- . . The excessive height shows that Haman's enthusiasm was not biblical.
- . . This is a good way to check on our enthusiasm.
- . . Something is wrong if the plan includes excess.
- . . Joseph's plan to build storehouses was not excessive.

A. ASSURANCE

- . . Haman had assurance that his hateful request would be granted, but it was not.
- . . This is typical of many godless, selfish plans.
- . . Haman's assurance was based on past blessings and experience (5:11-12).
- . . There was no thanksgiving, just boasting.
- . . Mordecai's calm resistance (5:9) shows that he had biblical / historical assurance.
- . . He trusted God, and God worked.
- . . The king could not sleep (6:1-14).