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<sup>19</sup>When virgins were gathered together a second time, Mordecai sat within the king's gate. <sup>20</sup>*Now* Esther had not revealed her family and her people, just as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai as when she was brought up by him. <sup>21</sup>In those days, while Mordecai sat within the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, doorkeepers, became furious and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. <sup>22</sup>So the matter became known to Mordecai, who told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name. <sup>23</sup>And when an inquiry was made into the matter, it was confirmed, and both were hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

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1. Right place, right time

- a. Mordecai's position at the palace gate gave him access to both information & palace personnel
  - a1. He probably held a minor judicial position
  - a2. He hid that he was a Jew
- b. *When the virgins were gathered a second time* is a puzzling passage
  - a1. Esther was already selected to be queen
  - a2. The women who went before the king were already in his harem
  - a3. The most likely explanation is that these were young women who had not yet been with the king before Esther was selected (they probably were gathered to be sent home, since they no longer were needed)
- c. Mordecai either overheard a plot by 2 of the king's doorkeepers to kill the king or was told of the plot
  - a1. The doorkeepers were angry with Xerxes
  - a2. Since doorkeepers were to guard the king, they had easy access to the king

2. The plot revealed

- a. Mordecai told Esther of the plot
  - a1. Plots against kings were common

- a2. Queen Esther revealed the plot to Xerxes
- b. Even though Mordecai was a Jew, he was also a loyal citizen of Persia

- a1. Jer. 29:7 the Jews were commanded to seek the peace & welfare of the city to which they were exiled
- a2. Rom. 13 faithful believers are good citizens of the countries they live (only when officials command that a believer violate biblical mandates does he disobey)
- c. After an investigation it was discovered that the plot was real & the king's life was in jeopardy
  - a1. Being that these 2 were close to the king would have been unnerving
  - a2. The safety of the king depended on the trustworthiness of those around him
- d. The 2 plotters were hanged on gallows
  - a1. *On gallows* = *on posts* in the Hebrew
  - a2. It is likely that the 2 were nailed to wooden posts & then left to die
- e. Esther had revealed that Mordecai had informed her of the plot, so he would be credited
  - a1. The queen would not naturally know of such a plot on her own
  - a2. A plot overheard at the palace gate would be credible information

3. A matter of record

- a. The events surrounding the plot were recorded in the annals of the king (lit., *the daily record of events*)
- b. At the time, Mordecai was not rewarded for saving the king's life
  - a1. There is no mention why this occurred
  - a2. God would use this oversight to bring Haman's plot to kill the Jews forward
- c. There is no indication that Mordecai sought fame or reward, but he simply remained faithful
- d. God places his people in positions of influence & benefit, but they must be prepared to act
- e. Alertness to what God is doing is key to service