

**"THE NIGHT THE KING COULD NOT SLEEP"****Introduction**

1. This was a trivial event that shook the world
2. The Persian period – Brief background
3. The enemy: ready to strike – but fell suddenly

**1. GOD IS IN PERFECT CONTROL OF ALL EVENTS**

- 1) So simple a thing: "could not sleep" – but all events are from God – so was this sleeplessness.
- 2) God rules over all perfectly:
  - (i) the sparrows' fall
  - (ii) hairs of our head numbered
  - (iii) day of birth/death
- 3) Seen all through Bible:
  - (i) Joseph's life
  - (ii) time of Israel in Egypt
  - (iii) Moses: a "proper child" – the daughter of Pharaoh
  - (iv) Saul's asses
  - (v) Jonah + the great fish
  - (vi) the birth of Christ
  - (vii) Luther's Theses

**DOCTRINE**: God is always in perfect control of all things.

**APPLICATION**: Never doubt it – always trust Him.

**2. GOD WISELY RULES ALL EVENTS FOR HIS PEOPLE'S GOOD**

- 1) Why could not King Ahasuerus sleep?
  - (i) he must be reminded
  - (ii) Mordecai must be rewarded

(iii) Haman's scheme must fail

**OBSERVE**: God's timing was exact to the minute.

- 2) This is the turning-point in the Book of Esther:
  - (i) before: Haman rises
  - (ii) after: Haman falls – and so, in reverse, Mordecai.
- 3) It was not merely Mordecai, but all Israel (= God's people at that date).
- 4) Evil can only go so far:
  - (i) Pharaoh's plan to kill the baby boys
  - (ii) Sennacherib's to destroy Jerusalem
  - (iii) The Holocaust → 1948

**APPLICATION**: God will step in to save His own

**3. THERE IS A SET TIME FOR REWARDS + PUNISHMENTS**

- 1) Why was not Mordecai rewarded before now? How was he forgotten?
 

**ANS**: Evil must first appear to triumph.
- 2) This so true of God's ways:
  - (i) David's life
  - (ii) The birth of Christ: "root out of dry land"
  - (iii) The death of Christ: what a shock to those who hated and crucified him!
  - (iv) The end of the world: "the first last and the last first"
 

**APPLICATION**: Wait patiently: "The mills of God grind slow, but exceeding fine".

**4. WHEN THE WHEEL OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE TURNS ROUND, THOSE AT THE TOP WILL BE AT THE BOTTOM...**

- 1) What an alteration this sleepless night brought about!
  - (i) Haman – so confident – his gallows – his royal support : poised to strike.

(ii) Mordecai + Jewish nation – so much at risk – facing extermination.

2) How did God change all this?

ANS: By denying sleep to one man!

3) From the Jews who escaped, Christ was to be born + the people of God worldwide to be saved.

### CONCLUSION

O blessed and holy God!  
Let us love and trust Him!

#### **PSALM**

**92: 5 – 11**

**73: 18 – 23**

**76: 8 - 12**