

## ***Esther Chapter 3***

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- For five years, things have been peaceful in Shushan. Esther has reigned as queen, and Mordecai has tended to the king's business at the gate.
  - Then everything changed, and all the Jews in the empire found themselves in danger of being killed just to satisfy the hatred of a man named Haman.
  - The book of Esther is one of five Old Testament books that the Jews call "The Writings" or "The Five Megilloth / Scrolls." The other books are Ruth, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Solomon, and Lamentations.
  - Each year on the Feast of Purim, the book of Esther is read publicly in the synagogue; and whenever the reader mentions Haman's name, the people stamp their feet and say, "may his name be blotted out!"
  - To Jews everywhere, Haman personifies everybody who has tried to exterminate the people of Israel.
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V: 1 So about 5 years later. In a seemingly un-related political event Haman has risen above the other leaders that were before the king.

- Haman the Agagite, a descendant of Agag the Amalekite.

Saul was commanded to go and utterly destroy the Amalekites:

**1 Samuel 15:8** "And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive,..."

- Basically Haman is alive because Saul was disobedient, he is the literal repercussion of sin some 500+ years later.
- It's no coincidence that Saul was a Benjamite who failed to destroy the Amalekites; but Mordecai, also a Benjamite, took up the battle and defeated Haman.
- The phrase "Agagite" is actually a title or term for "the king", like Pharaoh, used by the Amalekites, the descendants of Amalek, who was the grandson of Esau.
- In the Scriptures Esau represents the fleshly man, living after the flesh, who despises the things of the Spirit. He despised his birthright, sold it for a bowl of soup.

**Romans 9:13** "As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."  
(Malachi 1:13)

- As far as I know he is the only man in scripture whom God declares that he hates. At the same time understand that he hated God and the things of God.
- He is a type of those that live after the flesh. The Amalekites were the ones that attacked Israel when they first came out of Egypt in the wilderness, they attacked later when they tried to come into the promised land from Kadesh-Barnea, and joined with the Canaanites in trying to drive them out. They later joined the Moabites in attacking Israel. They were the perennial enemies of God and of God's people, and now here they stick their ugly head up again in the form of Haman.
- There is nothing commendable at all about Haman, he represents everything that God hates:

**Proverbs 6:16-19** “<sup>16</sup>These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: <sup>17</sup>A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup>An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, <sup>19</sup>A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among the brethren.” (Haman didn't miss to many of these...)

- Haman, the Agagite, the enemy of God's people, is a type of the flesh.
- Mordecai on the other hand, becomes a type of God's people, the spiritual man; and so there is warfare, the flesh against the spirit, the spirit against the flesh.

**Galatians 5:17** “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other...”

- Saul was told to kill them all, and he killed most of them. What harm can one Amalekite do? All of them? Isn't that kind of legalistic? Not very reasonable, it's just a little thing... one compromise always leads to another.
- When it comes to sin, we have to deal with it decisively, brutally, we have to kill it all!

**Galatians 5:24** “And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

**Romans 6:11** “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”

V: 2-4 The king promoted Haman and ordered everyone to bow to him, and reverence him as they saw him.

- Mordecai however refused to bow or reverence him, to pay homage or to worship him, contrary to the king's command.

- Those around him took note of his “civil disobedience” and apparently in his defense he explained that he was a Jew and could not do what the king had commanded.
- Mordecai had come to a place where he needed to take a stand, no pun intended - but the defining issue was the Word of God.

**Exodus 20:2-5** (First two commandments.) “<sup>4</sup>Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God...”

- **Daniel Ch. 3** records the trial of Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; otherwise known as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, when they would not bow down to Nebuchadnezzar’s golden image. They were thrown into the fiery furnace but came out unharmed.
- The issue was the same, whether or not to compromise the Word of God.
- We are called to be obedient to the authorities set over us, because God is the One who set them over us.

**Romans 13:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. <sup>2</sup>Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”

- There is a line though, and that is when we are told to not do what God’s Word says.

**Acts 5:29** “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, we ought to obey God rather than men.”

- There was another reason why Mordecai would not bow down before Haman. The Amalekites were the avowed enemies of Israel, but more importantly of God. The Lord swore and put in writing that He had declared war on the Amalekites and would fight them from generation to generation (Exodus 17:16) and Mordecai was taking sides, he was standing with the Lord! (Life Chain)

**Psalms 139:21** “Do not I hate them, O Lord, and that hate thee? And am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?”

V: 5 Haman had been told of Mordecai’s disobedience and irreverence and was looking for him. When he saw it with his own eyes he was full of wrath; rage, and fury.

- Wrath, anger, etc. are simply manifestations of pride. A fleshly reaction demonstrating our response to a perceived slight or insult, to not being treated the way that we feel we should be treated. Our self image is bigger and more important than those around us because it's all about us. Basically elevating our selves and lowering those around us.

**Ecclesiastes 7:9** “Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.”

V: 6 “*He thought to scorn or he disdained to lay hand on Mordecai alone...*”

- Somebody ticks you off so lets commit genocide! This is demonic, and so often directed at the Jews and or Christians.

The fruit of the flesh:

**Galatians 5:19-21** “<sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup>envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

**Genesis 4:23-24** “<sup>23</sup>And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zilhah, hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt. <sup>24</sup>If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.”

- When we see disproportionate responses like this, especially those that end up in murder we see the demonic influence behind it.

Jesus in rebuking the religious leaders:

**John 8:44** “Ye are of your father the Devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning,..”

V: 7 **Time frame:** First month, Nisan (March / April).

- Chapter 1 the big feast took place in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of his reign.
- Esther was made queen 4 years later in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of his reign, now we are 5 years down the road, to the 12<sup>th</sup> year of his reign.
- God has had His players in place for 5 years, and yet the reason for their being there has yet to be revealed to them, the purpose for God having them there has not yet been revealed, but it's about to be.

- So often God is working out His purposes in our lives, working years in advance, and we don't see it or know. Our problem is that we live our lives on a day by day basis, and we look at today, and we look at tomorrow, and we say "why am I here?", "I've been here two whole weeks and nothing is happening..." God's not in a hurry and sometimes, most times, His plans are measured in years as opposed to weeks or days. (Faith / patience are needed...)

V: 8-9 Haman tells the king that there are certain undesirables scattered throughout his kingdom that live by a different law, and that don't keep the laws of the king.

- Because of the policies of the Assyrians, the Babylonians, and now the Persians the Jews had been dispersed throughout the Persian empire into every province.

*“<sup>8</sup>It is not fitting for the king to allow them to live.”* NKJV

- Haman is offering to pay the king's treasuries 10,000 talents of silver (18 million dollars) to let him do this.

V: 10-11 When the king gave his ring to Haman, he was giving Haman a symbol of his authority, to "seal" it.

- The king then gave Haman the proceeds, the silver that would come from all this. Basically they were going to take it from the spoils of having destroyed the Jews.

V: 12-14 So they call the scribes in on the **13<sup>th</sup>** day of the first month (Nissan - Mar/Apr)

- Nothing in the Bible is random, including this reference to the 13<sup>th</sup> day. 1 represents the oneness or unity of God, 3 stands for the Trinity, the tri-unity of God. 4 - represents the Holy Spirit, 5 - grace, 6 - man, 7 completion, 8 - new beginning, 9 is the number of Melchizedek, 10 - Law, 11 - disorder, 12 - order, **13 - rebellion.**
- Seems appropriate given what Haman is attempting to perpetrate here.
- It's all sealed with the king's ring and sent out to every province in the various languages.
- The preparations for this diabolical plan would take approximately one year, D-day so to speak would be the 13<sup>th</sup> day of Adar (Feb / March)
- The people are also given an incentive to participate, they can have the spoil of those they kill. Whoever you kill under this decree, you can have their property, their wealth, and possessions. Sounds a lot like the inquisitions of the Catholic church.

V: 15 After the posts were sent out, the king and Haman sit down to drink together; they're relaxing, perhaps even celebrating, but Shushan the capital is perplexed, disturbed by these events.

- Isn't this how all these problems started to begin with?

**Esther 1:10** "... when the heart of the king was merry with wine..."

- So the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month, the Jews are set to be exterminated!
- Makes you wonder if Hitler & Goebbels were Agagites. The Jews have been the target for extermination so many times through history, Pharaoh, Haman, Herod, even up to today as the leaders of Iran and other Islamic countries are actively working to exterminate the Jews, and the many others who silently watch and do nothing.
- More and more of the "church" (so called) is joining in support of those who hate Israel. (Church history / Crusades / don't help.)

Yet God's Word still stands through the ages:

**Genesis 12:3** "And I will bless them that bless thee: and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

- As Christians in a way we are compelled by the Scriptures to love the Jews.

Paul declares:

**Romans 9:3-5** "3For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: 4Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; 5Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen."

- The "covenants" - "giving of the Law" - "promises" - Jesus was a Jew!
- If we truly love the Lord, then we would just as truly love those that He loves!
- As we see here God's purposes have yet to be fulfilled, this is just the prelude...
- The city is "**perplexed**", the Jews are scared. Many at this moment are probably second guessing their decision to stay behind and not go to Jerusalem with the "faithful" - even though their fate would be the same.
- Even though they weren't probably keeping kosher, even though there is no mention of prayer in this book you can bet there is plenty of that happening now. Even though they'd perhaps not been so faithful, God still is!

**2 Timothy 2:13** “If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself.”

- Reminder: this book is not about the faithfulness of God's people; it all about His faithfulness. And no matter what we / or they do; He can't deny Himself, He doesn't change, He is always faithful!