

Haman the Enemy of God's People Esther 2:21-3:15

INTRO: Before we get into chapter three of Esther, we need to take a brief look at the last three verses of chapter two. What happens in these verses is very important to the rest of the story of the book of Esther.

1. In Esther 2:21-22, we have a secret conspiracy by two of the king's men. These men were planning to murder the king.
2. Esther 2:23 tells us that Mordecai got wind of the plot, and he told Esther about it, and Esther told the king. "The insurgents were sentenced to death, and before the ink was dry on the decree, they were history" (Swindoll 31).

We come now to chapter three of Esther which concerns Haman the enemy of Mordecai and the Jews.

There are three ways to view Esther chapter three: historically, prophetically, and practically.

1. Historically this man Haman had a hatred for one man Mordecai. This hatred led to his intention of destroying all Jews in Persia.

2. Prophetically, Haman is a picture of the anti-Christ who will persecute the Jews and seek to destroy them during the last half of the tribulation.

a. The phrase, "this wicked Haman" in 7:6 adds up to 666 in the original Hebrew; and this is the number of the beast (Rev 13:18).

b. Haman plotted his murders secretly while appearing to be friendly to the Jews openly. The anti-Christ will make a covenant with Israel for seven years, but break it after 3 ½ yrs.

c. Haman possessed tremendous power given to him by the king; the beast will possess great power given to him by Satan.

d. Haman's pride was obvious. He wanted all men to bow down to him; and the beast will cause all men to worship him and his image (Rev 13).

e. Haman hated the Jews; and the anti-Christ will hate the Jews.

f. Haman was doomed; even though for a time he seemed to have power. Satan's masterpiece, the beast, will appear to be indestructible; but Christ will destroy him and his followers when He returns (Rev 19:20).

3. Practically, we see how some men cannot handle promotion. There are those who are promoted when others ought to be.

a. Mordecai had saved the king's life; you would think he would be first in line for promotion.

b. But Haman gets the promotion, not Mordecai. How many

bosses have promoted the wrong man?

c. Deserving folks often get passed over while the unrighteous get the reward.

I. VS.1-2, 5 HAMAN A TYPE OF ANTI-CHRIST

- A. Vs 1, Haman is promoted by the king who is here a type of the world. The king gives Haman political prestige, “above all princes.”
 - 1. Haman’s political power is second only to that of the one who gave it (Rev 13:1-4). This is the way it is with the anti-Christ.
 - 2. The anti-Christ will come to power during the tribulation (Dan 9:25-27).
 - 3. Today we have world powers that are controlled by Satanic forces. The “Princes” of Esther 3:1 remind us of the princes (Rulers) over municipalities– principalities of Eph 6:12.
 - 4. This world and its system delights in promoting ungodly superstars just as Ahasuerus delight in promoting Haman.
- B. Vs 2, 5, Haman is not able to fool Mordecai. Godly Mordecai is sensitive to spiritual matters and knows that Haman is seeking to be worshiped.
 - 1. This is what Daniel tells us the anti-Christ will do during the tribulation (Dan 11:36-37).
 - 2. Humanism and its emphasis on the worship of man is the theme of our age.
 - 3. Mordecai saw Haman for what he was– the two witnesses of Rev 11:3-5 will see the anti-Christ for who he is and witness against him.

II VSS 3-9, THE PLOT IS HATCHED

- A. Vs 3, Just as Daniel and the three Hebrew children could not bow before and worship false gods, Mordecai refused to worship a man– Haman.
- B. Vs 4-6, When Haman learned that Mordecai was a Jew his anti-Semitism boiled over (vs 5).
 - 1. Haman’s hatred for the Jew came from his family tree. Haman was a descendent of Agag the Amalekite king whom the prophet Samuel killed. The Amalekites had never gotten over this and were bitter enemies of the Jews.
 - 2. Why did Mordecai refuse to bow down to Haman:

- a. To bow to such a man would be an act of idolatry to a Jew.
- b. Mordecai would not bow to Haman because Haman was an Amalekite, an avowed enemy of his people who deserved no respect.

III. VSS 7-11, HAMAN'S WICKED PLAN FOR THE EXTERMINATION OF THE JEWS

- A. Vs 7, This verse tells us that Haman had to wait for his turn to see the king. This gave him time to hatch his wicked plan. It has been from wicked hearts like Haman's that evil has threatened the Jews for centuries (Jer 17:9).
- B. Vs 8-9, Here we have the conspiracy at work.
 1. Vs 8, Those same laws that upset Haman are the laws that upset the ungodly today. The world hates authority, hates the Ten Commandments, and hates the inerrancy of scripture.
 2. Vs 9, Haman promises to bring in 375 tons of silver to put in the king's treasury for permission to destroy the Jews. The king is influenced by this money that will, he thinks, help him build his empire.
 3. Vss 10-11, The king gives his approval for the plan as well as the finances to carry it out.
 4. Anti-Semitism is nothing new; it has been around along time. From the time of Solomon's death until today, the Jews have suffered great periods of persecution at the hands of their enemies.
 5. Today, we not only have animosity against the Jews, but also animosity against the Christians (I Pet 1:11; Eph 6:11).

IV. VSS 12-15, THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE

- A. Vs 12, The king's ring has given Haman the power of attorney to set its seal on any document that he drafts to carry out his wicked plans.
- B. Vss 13-15, the day was set and the letters had been sent out. While the Jews await extermination, Haman and the king sit and drink (vs 15).

CONCLUSION: There is a Jew who is both hated and loved: He is Jesus (Jn 1:11, 12).