

**"Haman's Hatred"**

**Esther 3**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Esther we started into Esther chapter 3, and it was in verses 1 and 2 that we looked at the promotion of wicked Haman. We are not told why he was promoted. Possibly he had some connection with foiling the plot to kill the king in chapter 2. Possibly he took the credit that should have went to Mordecai. This is all speculation for we are not told why he was promoted. We do know however that God was behind his promotion.

**Daniel 2:20-22**

<sup>20</sup> *Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:*

<sup>21</sup> *And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

<sup>22</sup> *He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.*

At the time of Haman's promotion the Jews were in a comfortable setting considering they were in exile. They had one of their own as the queen, who was Esther. They had one of their own sitting in the king's gate, who was Mordecai. These two positions held by Jews were prominent positions and so they could make life much easier for the Jews.

But as we come to chapter 3 all of this is about to change. God permits Haman to be promoted and the comforts in the exile are about to go away.

**Application:**

I want to just remind us again of a truth that we must always keep in mind. We do all we can to search for the most comfortable surrounding for ourselves and for our families. We labor day and night to get things set up so that we can live in the plush comforts of our world and just about the time we get to the goal which we have been laboring for, something happens that snatches away our peace, and the comfortable life we desire. Some kind of news comes that rocks our world. The storm clouds move in, and they will not leave. The pressure that we were trying to escape from has found us in our area of comfort. If we are not close to the Lord in these times we struggle because we have no solid anchor to cling to.

**Matthew 7:24-27**

<sup>24</sup> Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

<sup>25</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

<sup>26</sup> And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

<sup>27</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

It is a heart that is saturated with God's Word that has stability in the storms.

When these times come, we must remember that God's ultimate purpose in this world is that He Himself would be glorified. God's purpose is not to pamper us with the plush comforts of life. He is going to cause and permit things to happen that will bring glory to Him. The case here in Esther would be for God's glory for He will rescue the Jews from the death sentence which Haman places them under.

## I. Haman's Wrath

### Notice Esther 3:1-4

Last week we looked at Mordecai's refusal to bow to Haman. In 3:3 we see that the men around Mordecai inquired as to why he would not bow and then in verse 4 we see that his answer was rather vague. He must have just told them he would not bow because he was a Jew.

Now, we do not know what was in Mordecai's mind, but I will give you something to think about. Possibly Mordecai was thinking of what the Amalekites had done to Israel when they attacked them in Exodus 17. In Deuteronomy we see the details of what they did.

### Deuteronomy 25:17-19

<sup>17</sup> Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt:

<sup>18</sup> How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to

*possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.*

This may have been in the mind of Mordecai, but we really do not know. One thing we do know is that the typology here is perfect. Mordecai is a type of the New/Divine nature in the believer and Haman is a type of the sin nature. Mordecai's refusal to bow is an accurate picture of how the Divine nature will never bow to the flesh. The flesh is sinful and corrupt, and he wants to be the center of attention within our lives.

**Notice Esther 3:4 again.**

The men who witnessed Mordecai's refusal to bow took Mordecai's reply to Haman to see if it would be acceptable. Basically they approached Haman and told him that Mordecai would not bow because he was Jew and then they asked Haman if this was an acceptable reason.

**Notice Esther 3:5**

Apparently, Haman had not realized that Mordecai had not been showing him reverence and when he found out he was full of wrath. I want to consider the wrath of Haman for a moment.

Whatever someone is filled with it will certainly control them. Haman was full of wrath, and this will lead him to develop a plan to murder the Jews. People can be filled with many things, and each will control them.

- Some people are filled with fear and the fear controls them.
- Some people are filled with self and in this case everything they do centers around them.
- Some people are full of worry and anxiety, and they are in a constant state of worry.

As believers we are to be filled with the Spirit. There are two statements in Ephesians that carry this idea.

**Ephesians 5:14-18**

<sup>14</sup> *Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*

<sup>15</sup> *See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,*

<sup>16</sup> *Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

<sup>17</sup> Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

<sup>18</sup> And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

### **Ephesians 3:19**

<sup>19</sup> And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Notice the words of Clarke on Ephesians 3:19:

*"Among all the great sayings in this prayer, this is the greatest. To be filled with God is a great thing; to be filled with the fullness of God is still greater; but to be filled with all the fullness of God utterly bewilders the sense and confounds the understanding."*

When we are filled with the fullness of God our lives will be controlled by the Holy Spirit who lives within us. Our desires will be God's desires. Our motives will be God's motives. Our lives will glorify God which is what He desires from us.

Getting back to Haman, he was full of wrath which is going to lead to his destruction.

### **Notice Esther 3:6**

Haman thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone. In other words, Haman was not satisfied with just killing Mordecai. When he discovered that Mordecai was a Jew, Haman decided that he would have all the Jews put to death. This is another Satanic attack against the nation of Israel. Satan knew the Redeemer who would destroy him would come from Israel and this was another attempt to stop the coming of the Redeemer.

### **Application:**

When we read of the plan of Haman, we can clearly see the foolishness of the wrath of man. When a person enters into a fit of wrath or rage, he or she will do things that are foolish. It is estimated that there were possibly 15 million Jews in the Persian Empire at this time. The wrath of Haman had drove him to the extreme. This is exactly what happens to people today who have no control over their anger.

### **Daniel 3:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

<sup>20</sup> And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

### Notice Esther 3:7

Here is a very interesting verse. We see that they/the Persians cast Pur/the lot before Haman. The idea here is that they cast lot before Haman for each day of the year. They did not do this for the entire year, but they cast the lot for every day of the year. The question here is, "What was this all about?" This is the Persians attempt superstitiously to find the best day of the year to execute the Jews. Notice the words of Stedman:

*"What a strange thing to interject here! This casting of lots to determine a lucky day on which to do something was a common practice in oriental kingdoms. It was similar to the practice today of shooting dice in order to determine an appropriate, favorable day. This account does not mean that for a whole year they shook dice in front of Haman. It means that every cast they made stood for a different day. They would cast the dice out and name the cast for a certain day of the calendar year. If it was a favorable number, then that day was a lucky day. Thus they went through three hundred and sixty-five casts before this man -- a whole year's time before they found a lucky day, and when they found it, it was in the twelfth month which is the month of Adar.*

*This is nothing but the rankest superstition! All superstition is a form of fear, and fear is the enemy of faith. Fear is the opposite of faith. Superstition, then, is a sign of distrust of God. Why is it that whenever we acknowledge that our business has been good, or our health has been good, we like to knock on wood? We really do it to frighten away the jealous spirits which we think may take our prosperity away. We distrust the gods. It's strange, isn't it, how many Christians resort to these superstitious practices? They smile and joke when they do them, but down underneath there is a lingering suspicion that they had better do them or they might bring bad luck. This is simply fear of the jealousy of God. The tempter has planted in our hearts the feeling that God is not really interested in our welfare, that we must take care of all things ourselves. We have begun to distrust the goodness of God."*

Let us notice two other times in the Bible when God used the casting of lots to reveal His will.

### Jonah 1:5-7

<sup>5</sup> Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

<sup>6</sup> So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

<sup>7</sup> And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

God revealed through the casting of lots that Jonah was the cause of the storm on the sea.

### **Acts 1:23-26**

<sup>23</sup> And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

<sup>24</sup> And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

<sup>25</sup> That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

<sup>26</sup> And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Now let us notice a verse that connects all of this together.

### **Proverbs 16:33**

<sup>33</sup> The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.

This verse helps us to understand that there is nothing that happens by chance. We will come back to this verse when we come back to our study again.

### **Conclusion:**

We do not need to cast lots to determine the will of the Lord today.

### **2 Peter 1:19**

<sup>19</sup> We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

### **Psalms 119:105**

<sup>105</sup> Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.