

"Haman's Promotion"

Esther 3

**Introduction:** One thing that we can be sure about as we pass through this world is that there are times when things certainly do not go as planned. There are times when life just seems to be unfair.

**Job 5:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> *Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground;*

<sup>7</sup> *Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.*

**Job 14:1-2**

*Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.*

<sup>2</sup> *He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.*

We live in a world that is under the curse and for that reason there are going to be times when life seems to be unfair and there is going to be trouble.

**Genesis 3:16-19**

<sup>16</sup> *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

<sup>17</sup> *And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life:*

<sup>18</sup> *Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;*

<sup>19</sup> *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

All of the struggles which we encounter are for our sake and for God's glory. They are to drive us to our knees so that we seek God and learn to lean upon Him instead of being dependent upon our own wisdom and human abilities.

The last time we were together in Esther we were looking at how Mordecai had intervened and exposed a plot to kill the king.

**Notice Esther 2:21-23**

After reading these verses we would think that Mordecai would receive some special recognition and that he would be promoted. He should have been for that we the practice of his day. The king would publicly reward such a person as Mordecai for saving his life and the reward would encourage others to come forward if they heard of a plan against the king. But Mordecai was skipped over.

**I. Wicked Haman Promoted**

**Notice Esther 3:1**

**Let us notice the words of Swindoll on the first three words of this verse:**

*"Isn't it interesting how these sections tie together with these rather casual phrases: "after these things," "so it came about," "in those days," "after these events"? That's the way it is in life. The big events in our lives, the major turning points, don't begin with a bold, ear-splitting announcement from heaven, "Today will bring trouble—bad trouble!" No, those days begin like every other morning. You have no idea it's coming. And out of the blue it strikes! And you find yourself in the midst of this ancient struggle with sin and evil."*

These words introduce the promotion of one man and this promotion, that seems to be of no great importance, will bring devastation to the Jews. We have considered this thought before, but I want to refresh our minds again. One change of power can change our world over night and turn everything upside down.

**Exodus 1:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> *Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.*

<sup>9</sup> *And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we:*

<sup>10</sup> *Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.*

<sup>11</sup> *Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.*

I point this out because this is why it is so important that we are spiritually equipped. It is important that we have a firm grip upon the anchor of our souls.

**Hebrews 6:18-19**

*<sup>18</sup> That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

*<sup>19</sup> Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;*

Notice what David wrote in Psalm 18:

**Psalm 18:1-3**

*I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.*

*<sup>2</sup> The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

*<sup>3</sup> I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.*

These are the words of a man who invested his time with the Lord. This is exactly what is needed in the body of Jesus Christ today. The church needs solid and grounded, people. It does not need more programs or more entertainment. It needs believers who have a heart that desires to learn and to live the Bible. The problem is that many today are too caught up in the distractions of the world and that is where most of their time and energy is invested.

Now let us get back to the setting between chapter two and chapter three. Before the promotion of Haman the Jews had it made in the exile. Esther, a Jew, was now the queen and Mordecai her uncle sat in the gate of the city. The Jews had two people in high positions and therefore they were in the best possible situation they could be in considering they were in exile. It will be in the midst of these comforts that it shall all change.

**Application:**

Let us keep in mind, that as we search for the most comfortable spots to live for ourselves and our families, that God's purpose is to glorify Himself, not to see that His children live in the plush comforts of this world. When we are living in the plush comforts of this world then there is the tendency to forget God and to glory in our own achievements.

**Deuteronomy 6:10-14**

<sup>10</sup> *And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,*

<sup>11</sup> *And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;*

<sup>12</sup> *Then **BEWARE** lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

<sup>13</sup> *Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.*

<sup>14</sup> *Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;*

In the story of Esther, God would not allow the Jews to live in comfort and not glorify Him. Therefore, God will promote Haman to a position in which the Jews will desperately need Him. Let me show you how Haman came into his position.

**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.*

So, God has allowed Haman to be promoted so that He/God will be glorified in all that transpires. This is also what happens within our lives. Sometimes life is unfair and sometimes our lives get turned upside down overnight. But God is in control, and He is working the situation so that in whatever happens He will be glorified.

There are times when we are overlooked just as Mordecai was. There are times when someone else gets the glory that we thought should have been ours. But let us remember that we are not to live for the praise of man. But we are to live to hear the Words, "Well done thou good and faithful servant". Our promotion and reward will come in eternity. God never misses anything we do.

**Ephesians 6:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> *Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;*

<sup>6</sup> *Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;*

<sup>7</sup> *With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:*

<sup>8</sup> *Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.*

**Notice Esther 3:1-2**

Not only was Haman promoted but the king also commanded that all would bow to him. And all did, but Mordecai that is. Now there is a picture here that we need to see in the midst of all of this. It is seen as we search out the ancestry of Haman. We are told here that he was an Agagite, which means he was a descendant of Agag. But who was Agag?

**1 Samuel 15:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> *And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.*

<sup>8</sup> *And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.*

Here we see that Agag was an Amalekite. Now let us notice where the Amalekites came from.

**Genesis 36:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> *These are the names of Esau's sons; Eliphaz the son of Adah the wife of Esau, Reuel the son of Bashemath the wife of Esau.*

<sup>11</sup> *And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, and Gatam, and Kenaz.*

<sup>12</sup> *And Timna was concubine to Eliphaz Esau's son; and she bare to Eliphaz Amalek: these were the sons of Adah Esau's wife.*

Amalek was a descendant of Esau, and he is a type of the sin nature in the believer. Haman also was a descendant of Esau. So, here in Esther chapter 3 we can see Haman as a type of

the sin nature/flesh in the believer. Mordecai is a picture of the divine nature in the believer (we who are saved have two natures). The reluctance of Mordecai to bow to Haman is a picture of how our divine nature will NEVER bow to the flesh. Thus this is the battle within the believer. The hatred that Haman has toward the Jews is a picture of how the flesh hates anything that is connected with God. No matter what we do we can never make the flesh love the Word of God or love anything which glorifies God. The flesh always desires to have the glory for himself. We can never rehabilitate the flesh. He is sinful and will remain as such.

**Romans 7:17-19**

*<sup>17</sup> Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

*<sup>18</sup> For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

*<sup>19</sup> For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.*

**Conclusion:**

Notice the words of Stedman concerning the flesh:

*"There's such a principle of evil at work in every human heart. In the kingdom over which you reign, there is a "Haman" who is an "Agagite." Just as the solar system is a vastly expanded duplicate of what goes on in the atom, so, in effect, the history of the world is a vastly expanded duplicate of what goes on in an individual human life. In every life there is this satanic principle at work. It is called in the New Testament, "the flesh ." It lives for but one purpose, reflected here in the story of Esther -- in order to exalt itself. It never enjoys life more than when people are bowing and scraping in front of it. It is forever seeking status and position in the eyes of others. You know well this feeling, don't you? It appears to us as a trusted friend, just as Haman appeared to King Ahasuerus as one, he could trust. And yet Haman's true purpose was to advance himself and to see that everyone bowed low before him. So we treat this strange invader in our lives as though he were a friend -- we promote him and advance him. Isn't it interesting that we are not ashamed of our pride? We boast of it, we trust it, we regard it as an essential to life. We think that this principle, which demands that we think of ourselves first, is the very essence of living -- if this were destroyed, we would lose all. Thus we may recognize the Haman in our lives."*