

**"Haman's Hatred"**

**Esther 3**

**Introduction:** It has been several weeks since we were in our study of Esther and the last time, we were together we looked at Haman's method of choosing a day to exterminate the Jews.

**Notice Esther 3:7**

Here we see that Haman and those with him cast lots to determine the "luckiest" day to launch the attack upon the Jews. These people knew not God and they were very superstitious. The casting of the lots was done for each day of the year, and they were looking for "luck" to determine the best day. They cast the lots and they believed that it was "chance" that would reveal the best day for the attack, but it was God who allowed the lot to fall as it did.

**Proverbs 16:33**

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

**Application:**

All of this tells us that there is nothing that happens by chance within our lives. God is aware of and in control of every situation that we face. Let us notice another verse.

**Proverbs 18:18**

*<sup>18</sup> The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty.*

Notice the story from the Daily Bread:

*"Flipping a coin, drawing straws, or taking a number out of a hat have long been ways of resolving disputes. I once read of an election in an Oklahoma town where the two leading candidates each received 140 votes. Rather than go through the expense of another election, city officials used a chance method to decide the winner, and everyone accepted the outcome.*

*Many people view all of this as nothing more than a matter of chance. But the amazing thing about what the Word of God calls "casting lots" is that the Lord is ultimately the One who controls the outcome. This was true in the story of Jonah, where God showed Himself to be Lord even through the actions of superstitious, unbelieving sailors.*

*So, what does all of this say to us as believers? From the Christian's perspective, there is no such thing as chance. God is either directly or indirectly involved in everything that*

*happens to us. He can therefore be trusted and obeyed in any circumstance, because even the smallest details are under His control."*

**Romans 8:31-32**

<sup>31</sup> *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

<sup>32</sup> *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

Today we do not need to cast lots for we have the Word of God for our guide.

**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:*

**Psalm 119:105**

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

As we now proceed in our study, we can clearly see the hand of God in the day that was chosen.

**Notice Esther 3:7 again.**

We need to notice that the lot was cast in the first month and the date determined was in the twelfth month. We see the hand of God in this eleven-month gap. Had the lot fell on a day in the second month the Jews would have had no time to prepare a way to counter the decree. But the eleven-month time period would allow plenty of time for a counter plan to be put in place. This verse also shows the faithfulness of God in His promises to Israel.

**Numbers 23:23**

<sup>23</sup> *Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!*

As Haman and the sorcerers sat casting the lots looking to superstition to determine the "luckiest" day to exterminate all the Jews, God too was in the meeting. He was not seen in person, but His hand was clearly seen in the outcome. He had promised that there would be no enchantment or divination against His people and so He was fulfilling His Word. In the first eleven months there could not be a day determined for God would not permit it. Not

until the thirteenth day of the twelfth month and that was the day the Lord determined. The lot was cast in the lap, but it was God who would determine the outcome.

**I. Haman's Wrath  
Part 2**

**Notice Esther 3:8**

We need to notice how Haman painted a very dark picture of all the Jews. Keep in mind this started when Mordecai refused to bow. But here we see the Truth has been distorted and Haman has presented the Jews as a dangerous people who are completely against the king and his kingdom. Haman did not name the Jews and the king did not seem to care enough to inquire as to who they were. Haman even added that it was not in the king's best interest to permit them to remain. The idea in this statement is that it was not profitable for the king to allow these people to rest.

**Notice Esther 3:9**

Haman presents the king with the best answer to the problem, and it is to kill all the Jews. Let me remind you of the picture here before we go any further. Haman is a picture of the sin nature as we looked at previously. Mordecai is a picture of the new nature in the believer. The hatred of Haman toward Mordecai and the Jews is a picture of how the flesh feels about the things of God. It is also a picture of how corrupt the flesh is. This is why we as believers struggle at times. This was the struggle which Paul wrote about in Romans.

**Romans 7:15-21**

<sup>15</sup> *For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.*

<sup>16</sup> *If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.*

<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.*

<sup>20</sup> *Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

<sup>21</sup> *I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.*

This is also why Paul was so graphic when he described the sinful state of man.

**Romans 3:10-18**

*<sup>10</sup> As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

*<sup>11</sup> There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

*<sup>12</sup> They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

*<sup>13</sup> Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:*

*<sup>14</sup> Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:*

*<sup>15</sup> Their feet are swift to shed blood:*

*<sup>16</sup> Destruction and misery are in their ways:*

*<sup>17</sup> And the way of peace have they not known:*

*<sup>18</sup> There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

This is the true condition of man. Like Haman, man is corrupt, and he is capable of falling into the deepest and darkest sins.

**Notice Esther 3:9 again.**

Haman bribes the king by promising to give him ten thousand talents of silver if permission is given to kill the Jews. This was a tremendous amount of money. The value of this today would be about 326 billion dollars. Where would Haman get such a large sum of money? No doubt he was planning on getting it from plundering the Jews. [Just as a side note this offer of Haman tells us of the prosperity of the Jews in exile.]

**Application:**

There is an application here that we must pay close attention to. Haman has painted the Jews as dangerous and if the king trusts him, he will make the king rich.

Sometimes our flesh/Haman does its best to convince us that if we will suppress the things of the Lord, we will be better off or we will get further ahead. The flesh/Haman will always strive to be promoted or to gain a life in which it can indulge. Many believers have submitted to their Haman and have suppressed the Truth of God thinking that they

will benefit greatly by some worldly method or practice. Many have chased after the world thinking this path would be good for their family instead of submitting to the command of God to raise their children under the sound teaching of God's Word. Many have listened to their "Haman" who has convinced them that they do not need to gather together with believers and that they can walk with the Lord while living for the world. Many have listened to their "Haman" who has whispered in their ear that it is fine to marry an unbeliever because possibly your life will change theirs. The "Haman" in each of us will do all he can to lead you to suppress the Truth of God's Word for your life. Let us remember that the only way to conquer your "Haman" is with the cross.

**Notice Esther 3:10-13**

There are several points we need to see in these verses.

First, we see how sin takes place in a person's life. Let us notice what James says then we will look closer at our text.

**James 1:13-15**

*<sup>13</sup> Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

*<sup>14</sup> But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

*<sup>15</sup> Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

Sin happens when a person is enticed with the bait, then when the enticement is permitted to stay in the mind there is a conception, when there is a conception there will be a baby and the baby is sin. This is exactly what happened in the king's life. He was enticed with the words of Haman who suggested that the Jews were a threat to him and that he would be far better without them. The temptation was to grant permission to destroy them. When the king made the decision to go through with the extermination he gave his signet ring to Haman, in other words he passed the authority to another.

This is what happens in the believer's life when he or she sins. They are enticed and when lust has conceived, they hand the authority over to the flesh. The believer has two options in this situation. They can give the authority to their "Haman", or they can give their authority to the Holy Spirit.

Next, I want to draw your attention to the end of verse 13. Anyone who wanted to participate in killing the Jews would be rewarded by taking the possessions of those whom

they killed. This was a plan of Haman to get as many Persians as possible to participate in the extermination of the Jews. But his plan had a huge hole in it. If the killing was to be carried out only by the Persian military, then it would be nearly impossible for the Jews to fight back. But to defend themselves against the civilians would be much easier. This was all orchestrated by God for what is yet to come.

**Esther 9:1-2**

*Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)*

<sup>2</sup> *The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.*

Because the killings were to be carried out by the civilians it made it much easier for the Jews to fight against those who hated them. This again shows the hand of God even in the smallest of details in the lives of His people. Haman thought he was setting things up so that none of the Jews would escape but God turned it around in the favor of the Jews.

**Conclusion:**

**Notice Esther 3:14-15**

The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the rest of the city was in turmoil. This is a picture of what happens in the life of the believer when authority is given to the flesh/sin nature/Haman. There will be no peace and there will be no rest. Your decision to give authority to the flesh will not just impact you but also those around you. You are walking in darkness as the king was. He thought he had made the best decision by listening to Haman, but he was wrong. The believer who gives authority to the flesh walks in darkness. They may think they are making the best decisions for them and their family, but they are deceived. Following the flesh will lead to pain, heartache, and turmoil.