

“A Longstanding Feud Renewed”

Esther 3:1-15

Prel Rmks

Text ~ Title

(1) After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who *were* with him.

(2) And all the king's servants who *were* within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage. **(3)** Then the king's servants who *were*

within the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?" **(4)** Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told *it* to Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for *Mordecai* had told them that he *was* a Jew. **(5)** When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath.

(6) But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai.

(7) In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that *is*, the lot), before Haman to determine the day and the month, until *it fell on the twelfth month*, which is the month of Adar.

(8) Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws *are* different from all *other* people's, and they do not keep the king's laws.

Therefore *it is* not fitting for the king to let them remain.

(9) If it pleases the king, let *a decree* be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring *it* into the king's treasuries." **(10)** So the king took his signet ring

from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

(11) And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people *are* given to you, to do with them as seems good to you." **(12)** Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and *a decree* was written

according to all that Haman commanded—to the king's satraps, to the governors who *were* over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring. **(13)** And the letters were sent by couriers into

all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth *month*, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions. **(14)** A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day. **(15)** The couriers went out, hastened by the king's command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

INTRO

Review:

1. Esther chosen to be queen.
2. Mordecai seems to have been given a position inside the palace.

I. Haman's Promotion 1-4

Haman Was Promoted

(1)

After these things King Ahasuerus promoted **Haman magnificent or fiery**, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite,

It is not known why he was promoted

Some have suggested Haman was a descendant of the King Agag in 1 Samuel 15 ... 500 years earlier ... Agagites would have still hated Jews

There was a place in one of the Persian provinces known as Agag ...

Haman was second in command in all of Persia (like Joseph in Egypt)

(1b)

and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who *were* with him.

The Conflict

(2)

And all the king's servants who *were* within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so **the king had commanded** concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.

So The Other Servants of Ahasuerus asked Mordecai Why He Wouldn't Bow to Haman and Apparently Scolded Him for Not Bowing

(3)

Then the king's servants who *were* within the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?"

They spoke to Mordecai day after day about his refusal to bow. Mordecai told them that he wouldn't bow because he was a Jew. So, finally, Mordecai's fellow servants snitch on him.

(4)

Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told *it* to Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for *Mordecai* had told them that he *was* a Jew.

Why wouldn't Mordecai bow to Haman?

Was it for religious reasons? Ex.: Exodus 20:5

Most likely not!

Jews did bow down to Kings.

Later, when he was promoted, Mordecai would have bowed down

Most likely, just a matter of ethnic pride or national pride.

II. Haman's Anger 5-6

When Haman noticed ... He was furious!

(5)

When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath.

His anger goes far beyond just being personally offended. He develops a plot that can only be described as satanic.

(6)

But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Galatians 4:29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, even so *it is* now.

All throughout the OT ...

John C. Whitcomb: It is perfectly clear, then, that the titanic struggle of the book of Esther simply cannot be understood apart from the satanic purposes toward Israel which the general context of Scripture reveals.

Today! ...

III. Haman's Plot 7-9

We have a time marker

(7)

In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in **the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus**, 474

Haman consults their gods by this superstitious practice

they cast Pur (that is, the lot), before Haman to determine the day and the month, until *it fell on the twelfth month*, which is the month of Adar.

Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

Then Haman goes to King Ahasuerus with his plan:

(8)

Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom;

their laws *are* different from all *other* people's,

and they do not keep the king's laws.

Therefore it *is* not fitting for the king to let them remain.

(9)

If it pleases the king, **let a decree** be written that they be destroyed,

and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring *it* into the king's treasuries."

IV. The King's Compliance 10-15

Ahasuerus goes along with his advisor without asking any questions – even who these people are
(10)

So the king took **his signet ring** from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, **the enemy of the Jews**.

He speaks for me!

The nuclear brief-case

He gave Haman complete authority to carry out his wicked scheme
(11)

And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people *are* given to you, to do with them as seems good to you."

No indication that he even knew what people Haman was talking about

I wonder, was he drunk?

So Haman calls the Kings secretaries to draft a decree:
(12)

Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a *decree* was written according to all that Haman commanded—to the king's satraps, to the governors who *were* over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. **In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring.**

The Persian mail system was phenomenal (Pony Express)
(13)

And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day,

on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions. March 7, 473

Purim this year = March 23 sunset – March 24 sunset

All the people were to be ready to participate in this genocide in 11 ½ months
(14)

A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day.

(15)

The couriers went out, hastened by the king's command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was **perplexed confused, wandering around in confusion.**

So, like it is in our day.

The elites, the so-called leaders, sit down and drink together.

While the people are bewildered that they are caught up in something so evil – called upon to carry out and obey laws that are insanely wicked.

Conclusion

1. Israel today – the anti-semitism. The hatred of Jews.
2. The parallels to the highest leadership in our own country.
 - Leader who is the equivalent of drunk
 - Who has to listen to and go along with his advisors because he doesn't know what's going on. (Full-fledged card carrying Marxists!)
 - Who is himself evil and easily persuaded to do evil.

Psalm 121:4

Psalm 31:14-18