

MESSAGE # 7: The Plot of Haman. Esther 3:1-15

I. Introduction:

Welcome to another study in the Book of Esther. You will note that this is not just the account of an unique and competent woman but a remarkable reporting of God's capacity to deliver and keep His people in all sorts of circumstances. So far we have seen how Esther came to prominence in the Persian court and how Mordecai came on a piece of information that was of great service to the king. Today we meet the other featured person in the book, Haman, the enemy of the Jews. Our text is Esther 3:1-15 and in this passage we read about the wicked plot hatched by Haman against the chosen people of the Lord.

II. Discussion:

- 3:1....Meet Haman, the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite. He may have been a descendent from the old Amalekites whose last known king was Agag..but this is only conjectural. He has attained prominence in the court of Ahasuerus and is in a superior position to all the princes who serve with him.
- 3:2....The king has commanded that Haman be given a preferential place and that the other servants bow to him. But Mordecai, sitting in the gate, neither bowed nor revered Haman.
- 3:3....The other servants are perplexed by this and ask Mordecai why he defies the commands of the king.
- 3:4....Mordecai responded that he was a Jew and the others simply note this and he continued his defiance of worship. Some of them, at least, go to Haman and ask about this....maybe they would like to get away with it, too.
- 3:5....Haman may not have paid much attention to Mordecai before but he makes special note now and he is "full of wrath". Pride and personal ambition are terrible things when they govern one's affairs./
- 3:6....So Haman thinks a judgment should be passed on Mordecai but not on this man alone..rather make him feel real guilt by having an act passed against all his people...they were an alien sect, they could be eliminated and the kingdom none the worse. His personal enmity for Mordecai could be set against a sort of protective patriotism.
- 3:7....In the 12th year of Ahasuerus, the astrologers, etc., meet with Haman for

10.4 he said
26.4