

Esther 3

Esther 3.1-6

V 1 – What new character is introduced at this point? Haman

-What family is he a descendant of? Agagites

-Do you remember anything about them?

-1 Samuel 15 – Samuel told Saul to kill all the Amalekites (also called Agagites/named after King Agag)

-But Saul did not destroy all of them

-God was right in what he told Saul – if Saul had obeyed, God's people would not have faced this evil man Haman

V 2 – What were people supposed to do to Haman? Bow down to him

-What did Mordecai do? Refused to bow down to him

-Why? Because of the first and second of the 10 Commandments

-So Mordecai remembered the Law of Moses

-What did the New Testament teach about bowing down to people? Remember when Cornelius bowed to Peter – Peter told him to stand up (see *Acts 10.25-26*)

V 3-4 – When questioned about this, what did Mordecai say? He was a Jew

V 5 – What was Haman's reaction to Mordecai? He was enraged (the king was not the only one with a temper problem)

V 6 – Why didn't Haman just have Mordecai killed? He was a little afraid of the Jews

-Remember it still was not common knowledge that the queen was a Jew

-Mordecai is beginning to emerge as a man of God

Esther 3.7-15

V 7 – Time lapse? 12th year of the reign of the king (*Esther 1* was the 3rd year)

-Why was Haman casting lots? To determine the best time to have the Jews killed

-The lot fell to the 12th month (12 months later)

V 8 – Reason Haman gave for the destruction of the Jews? – different laws; they do not observe the king's laws, etc.

V 9 – How badly did Haman want to have the Jews killed? He was willing to pay 10,000 talents of silver

V 10-11 – The king agreed to Haman's plan (the king was still not aware that Queen Esther was a Jew)

V 12 – The order was given – sealed with the king's signet ring

V 13 – **What did the order include?** To kill all Jews and seize their property – all on one day
-Notice the little regard for human life

V 14 – A copy was to be sent to all the provinces

V 15 – **What did the king and Haman do?** Drank together (satisfied with themselves)

End of *Esther 3*: Old question: "What happens when an irresistible force hits an immovable object?" - Something has to give

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