

- I) V1-2 INTRO: On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman  
Haman's plot to destroy the Jews has been revealed
  
- II) Out of petty spite, Haman had plotted to destroy all Jews  
This was not just Jews in Persia, but anywhere they might be found  
Esther 3:13 tells us that messengers went throughout all the king's provinces  
with orders to **destroy**, to **kill**, and to **annihilate** all the Jews, both young and old, little  
children and women, in one day...
  
- III) This order was one of complete annihilation  
The fact is, Haman left the people unnamed, not saying it was the Jews  
He knew that Mordecai was Jewish, and that was all that he needed (5:13)  
It is amazing how evil this man was, to destroy and entire people
  
- IV) It warns us against thinking too highly of ourselves  
Ps 36:1-3 I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of  
the wicked: There is no fear of God before their eyes. In their own eyes **they flatter  
themselves too much** to detect or hate their sin. The words of their mouths are wicked  
and deceitful; they fail to act wisely or do good
  
- V) Before we think that this only happened 2500 years ago, we need to think again  
The Hamas Covenant was originally issued on 18 Aug 1988 and outlines the  
founding identity, stand, and aims of Hamas. The original Charter declares its  
members to be Muslims who "fear God and raise the banner of Jihad in the face of the  
oppressors". The charter states "our struggle against the Jews is very great and very  
serious" and calls for the obliteration of Israel. It emphasizes the importance of jihad,  
stating in article 13, "There is no solution for the **Palestinian question** except through  
Jihad. Initiatives, proposals, and international conferences are all a waste of time and  
vain endeavors.
  
- VI) This is what is meant when people say from the river to the sea  
The River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea: obliterate Israel
  
- VII) This was Haman's desire: to kill all Jews  
He couldn't stand the fact that Mordecai would not honor him  
Esther 5:9 when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate and that he did not  
stand or tremble before him **he was filled with indignation** against Mordecai

- I) Esther had been informed that Haman planned on killing all Jews  
Mordecai had made it clear that she, too, would forfeit her life
- II) When the king's command was issued and ratified, it could not be changed  
QUOTE: It was an established principle in the Medo-Persian Empire that when a king formally signed and instituted a decree, it was so binding that not even the king himself could change it. The decrees of a Persian king were unchangeable because he was thought to speak for the gods, who could never be wrong and thus never needed to change their minds.  
Dan 6:8 Now O king establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it **cannot be changed**, according to the law of *the Medes and Persians*, which does not change
- III) Mordecai told Esther that deliverance would arise for the Jews  
Esther 4:14 Then he told her: Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom **for such a time as this**
- IV) Esther knew that appearing before the king without invitation was dangerous  
She took the chance, and her husband welcomed her and listened to her  
She had devised a plan, and wanted to get his approval
- V) She decided to give her husband a banquet, with an invitation for Haman  
This was something that appealed to Haman's ego, and he was thrilled  
He rushed home to tell his friends and family about the invitation
- VI) This was something that he considered an extremely high honor  
As he had passed Mordecai, Mordecai did not stand or tremble before him  
Mordecai did not give him the respect he desired, and **it ruined everything**
- VII) Haman had told his friends and wife how much he hated Mordecai  
His wife Zeresh gave him advice: **build a gallows** and hang him on it  
The king respects you, so suggest to him that Mordecai should die on it
- VIII) This advice pleased Haman, so he had the gallows made **to hang Mordecai**  
He then attended the banquet intending to make his request to the king
- IX) Esther was well aware of the plan to exterminate all the Jews  
Her cousin Mordecai (2:7, 10) had told her not to reveal that she was Jewish

- I) This meant that Haman did not realize that she was a Jewess
- II) Esther had asked her husband to grant her a request  
He told her that she could have up to half his kingdom
- III) When she finally made her request to him, he was stunned  
Esther 7:3-6 **Let my life be given me** at my petition, and **my people**
- IV) The king was confused: who would make a threat on your life? Or your people?  
Esther informed her husband that Haman had instigated Jewish genocide
- V) The king was so furious that he left the room to cool off  
While out of the room, Haman begged for his life  
He fell on the couch Esther was on, and it appeared he was abusing her
- VI) When the king came in, he saw Haman and that was the end of Haman  
Ahasuerus ordered Haman to be put to death  
Job 18:5 The light of the wicked **shall be put out**, and the spark of his fire shall not shine
- VII) Ch 8:1-2 opens with Haman's property being disposed of  
Ahasuerus gave Esther the house of Haman  
This was to compensate her for the fear that she had been enduring
- VIII) In Persia, when a criminal was executed, his property now belonged to the King  
The King could give it to whomever he wanted: He gave the property to Esther
- IX) V1 Mordecai came before the king for Esther had told how he was related  
Esther finally revealed herself as a Jewess, and revealed Mordecai as her cousin
- X) V2 So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman  
Ahasuerus had given his signet ring to Haman (3:10)
- XI) He now gave Haman's authority over to Mordecai, making him prime minister  
Mordecai had already earned his trust by exposing the assassination plot
- XII) Esther gave Mordecai **stewardship** over the house, not ownership

- I) V3 Now Esther **spoke again** to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored Esther went once again into his presence, without him calling for her She began to beg, with great emotion, for the life of her people
- II) V4 And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther  
Once again the scepter is offered: Apparently a way of demonstrating favor
- III) V5 Esther arose and said If it pleases the king and **if I have found favor** Countermand Haman's evil order to annihilate all the Jews, everywhere Though Haman was dead, the order was still in place!
- IV) Evil laws continue to harm people long after the one establishing them has died
- V) V6 For how can I endure to see the evil that will come to my people  
This is not only oppression or hardship, for they could survive that  
This is **complete annihilation**: by implication, including Mordecai and herself
- VI) V7 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew  
I have executed Haman, and this should reveal that I will protect you
- VII) V8 You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews as you please  
I can't change the decree, but will grant permission to any plan you have
- VIII) You write the order: I cannot revoke my decrees, because they are binding  
Surely you can devise a way to save them in a way that does not shame me.
- IX) V9 So the king's scribes were called at that time in the third month (May-June)  
This was over two months after the first order had been given  
While aware of the decree the Jews would have been humbled, and in prayer
- X) V10 And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus sealed it with the king's signet  
The couriers rode on the swiftest form of transportation to deliver the message
- XI) V11-15 By these letters the king permitted the Jews who were in every city to  
The Jews were permitted to protect themselves  
They were not given permission to take the offensive, but to defend themselves  
They were also given permission to plunder them

- I) V13-14 All people are made aware of this, and were prepared
- II) V15 So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel  
Mordecai was arrayed as a great Persian prince, great in honor  
He was not of equal status as the king, but was arrayed in beautiful clothes
- III) V16 The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor  
The tables have now turned, and instead of fearing the Jews rejoice  
Ps 97:11 Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.  
Ps 112:4 Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for those who are  
gracious and compassionate and righteous
- IV) V17 And in every province and city wherever the king's command and decree  
The Jews had been trembling, but now they rejoice: they will survive  
When they heard the decree, they celebrated and feasted
- V) On the other hand, the people of the lands are afraid  
Perhaps their antisemitism was voiced out loud, and now they are in fear
- VI) Notice how they became Jews for fear of the Jews fell on them  
This means they converted, even submitting to circumcision  
Ps 18:43 You have delivered me from the attacks of the people; you have made  
me the head of nations. **People I did not know now serve me**
- VII) Ch 9:1 Now in the twelfth month that is the month of Adar on the thirteenth day  
The day decreed arrives, yet it is the Jews who conquer, not their enemies
- VIII) The enemies thought they would exterminate the Jews, but this didn't happen  
Instead, the Jews defended themselves and were victorious  
Ps 41:11 I know that you are pleased with me, **for my enemy does not triumph  
over me.**
- IX) V2 The Jews gathered together in their cities throughout all the provinces  
They took advantage of their freedom to fight, and fought valiantly  
They fought this way because their very nation and lives were at stake
- X) They fought for their own lives, as well as for their wives, children, and cities

- I) V2 They fought against those **who sought their harm**  
Their enemies had taken advantage of the decree, but were met with force  
No one could withstand them, and God provoked them to fear
- II) This reminds me of how Rahab had hidden the spies who came to Jericho  
When the spies came to the city, Rahab hid them in her attic  
The king ordered her to bring out the men, but she said that they had left
- III) She then spoke to the spies  
Josh 2:9-11 (She) said to them, "I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, **our hearts melted in fear** and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the **Lord your God** is God in heaven above and on the earth below.
- IV) V2 The fear of them fell upon all people
- V) V3-4 And all the officials of the provinces, the sataraps, the governors  
All government officials helped because of Mordecai's position  
They were afraid to not support him or his people
- VI) This is how it often happens  
People do not do what is right, but what is expedient for them  
They didn't side with the Jews, they feared retribution from Mordecai
- VII) Mordecai was powerful due to his relationship with Esther as well as the king
- VIII) V5 Thus the Jews defeated all their enemies with the stroke of the sword  
They retaliated against their enemies who had tried to kill them
- IX) V6 And in Shushan the citadel the Jews killed and destroyed 500 men  
They did not plunder Shushan, because personal enrichment was not their goal
- X) V7-10 the 10 sons of Haman...the enemy of the Jews they killed  
These are the names of Haman's sons

- I) V10 they did not lay a hand on the plunder  
This all came under Esther's ownership and Mordecai's stewardship  
Also, they did not want to appear malicious or greedy
- II) V11 On that day the number of those who were killed in Shushan the citadel  
They informed the King of how many died  
He would have wanted to know how many of his subjects had died
- III) V12 And the king said to Queen Esther The Jews have killed and destroyed  
Five hundred dead, the sons of Haman also dead: who knows how many more  
This may not be a question but a statement: what else needs to be done
- IV) V13-14 Then Esther said If it pleases the king let it be granted  
Let us make sure the job is finished: we don't need to let any survive  
Dt 7:1-3 When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—and when the Lord your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then **you must destroy them totally**. Make no treaty with them, and show no mercy
- V) They needed to finish the task  
Undoubtedly the leaders of their enemies were still alive  
They could attempt to rally and destroy the Jews: finish the task
- VI) V13 Hang Haman's ten sons so that all will see and fear the king
- VII) V15-16 And the Jews who were in Shushan gathered together again  
The Jews killed 300 more in Shushan, and in the provinces 75,000 were killed  
They finished the task and once again, they did not take the plunder
- VIII) V17-19 This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar (Feb-March)  
This gives the general order of events  
The slaughter of enemies occurred on the 13<sup>th</sup>, the 14<sup>th</sup> they rested  
On the 15<sup>th</sup>, they celebrated their victory and survival
- IX) After war comes a victory feast: After work comes rest, after escape comes joy

- I) V20-28 And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews  
They wanted their descendants to always remember this great victory  
Ps 105:4-5 Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He pronounced,  
Dt 32:7 Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you.  
Ps 77:11 I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember Your miracles of long ago.
- II) It is very important to keep in mind the things that God has done for you  
Forgetting those things is very common, and we must be aware of this
- III) Sadly, in Jewish history the people often seemed to forget what God had done  
Jud 2:7 The people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel.  
Jud 2:10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD *nor what he had done for Israel.*
- IV) Purim is celebrated in Israel with the people wearing costumes  
One rabbi says it is because the Jews pretended to be something else
- V) One Jewish writer said: On Purim, we wear costumes to recall that everything that happens is driven by God's guiding force, leading every event towards His master plan for His creation.  
It shows how God hid His work behind ordinary events
- VI) Also because it's a day when the poor receive charity it minimizes embarrassment
- VII) V29-32 Then Queen Esther the daughter of Abhail, with Mordecai the Jew  
This second letter follows the other letter (9:20) establishing Purim
- VIII) 10:1-3 And King Ahasuerus imposed tribute on the land and on the islands  
The king had a new sense of power and authority, and he increased revenue
- IX) These are things that were written in the Persian history books  
Mordecai used his power to encourage and secure peaceful existence