

# Esther 3

Jesus

## I. Haman

### 1 After these things...

- **After what things?** Eight years since Esther Ch. 1
- 1. **Vashti** Removed as Queen
- 2. **Ahasuerus** Looking for new Queen
- 3. **Esther** Wins Mrs. Persia. Installed as Queen: Not known as Jew yet
- 4. **Cousin Mordecai** Informs King: Two guys planning to kill you/hung on gallows
- **God is moving in people/within circumstances...**

**Romans 8:28** ... we know that **all things** work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to **His purpose**.

#### **No accidents/coincidences in lives of God's people...ever**

- Gods Providence/Sovereignty always in-play
- God's manifold Work, Wisdom, Grace: God can do more in one move than us in 1000
- **King has now heard the name Mordecai**...Mordecai says these guys want kill you

#### **OT a Physical Representation of a NT Spiritual Truth**

- **Before we were born again**, we only had **one nature**
  - 1. Sinful Nature
  - 2. AKA Old Man
  - 3. AKA **the Flesh**...Feelings based, self-centered, self-destructive sin dwells w/in
- **After we were born-again**, we acquired a new nature from God...
  - 1. New Man
  - 2. AKA **Spiritual Nature**. Truth based. Jesus-centered, life-giving

**We now have Two Natures:** Spirit and Flesh and they hate each other...

**Galatians 5:17** ... the flesh lusts [wars] against the Spirit and the **Spirit against the flesh**

- **Mordecai** Picture of **Walking in the Spirit**
- **Haman** Picture of **Walking in the Flesh**

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.

**Matthew 26:24b**... [Judas] It would have been good for that man **if he had not been born**.

- **Haman the Agagite**

1. **Bad man:** Raised up to 2<sup>nd</sup> most powerful man in world
2. **Picture of flesh...** sin which lives within us. Pride/Arrogance/Hatred
3. Descendant of **Agag the Amalekite**

### **First mention of Agag? Prophecy of the Spirit overcoming Flesh**

**Numbers 24:7** [Israel's King] ... shall be **higher than Agag**

- **Haman a descendant of Agag the Amalekite**
- Amalek was the son of Esau

**Esau/Amalek/Haman:** All Pictures of our Sinful Nature  
God's hates them because they rise up against Him and prey on His people

**Deuteronomy 25:17** Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, 18 how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, **all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary;** and he did not fear God. 19 Therefore it shall be, when the Lord your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, **that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.**

- Since Amalek attacked those who were tired, weak, elderly, disabled...

**God hates our flesh/old man/sin nature...because it sets itself against God**

**Romans 9:13** As it is written, Jacob I have loved but Esau [father of Amalek] **I have hated.**

**Blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.**

**1 Samuel 15:1** [Few centuries later Prophet Samuel to King Saul] ... heed the voice of the words of the Lord. 2 Thus says the Lord of hosts: '**I will punish Amalek** for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. **3** Now go and **attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all** that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' **...7** And Saul attacked the Amalekites... 8 He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. **9 But Saul and the people spared Agag** and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. ... **13** Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed *are* you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord."**14** But Samuel said, "What then *is* this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" **1 Samuel 15:32** Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me." So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, "**Surely the bitterness of death is past.**" **33** But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel **hacked Agag in pieces** before the Lord in Gilgal.

- **Command:** Kill Agag
  1. Kill that pornography
  2. Kill that anger
  3. Kill that pride, bitterness, unforgiveness

Yet Saul [compromise] spared Agag  
Samuel [Word of God] hacked Agag in pieces **before the Lord**

- **Haman son of Agag son of Amalek son of Esau:** All pictures of sinful fleshly nature

**If Saul had obeyed the Lord... Haman would not exist.**

- Jesus crucified our flesh but we must reckon [count it] as dead

**Romans 6:11** Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**We breathe life into dead flesh by simply turning when it calls. Reckon it dead**

- **Haman son of Agag son of Amalek son of Esau:**

1. Picture of our Sinful Nature
2. Raised to 2<sup>nd</sup> most powerful man in the world...

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.

Mordecai would not bow to demands of Haman  
We are not to even acknowledge the **demands of the flesh**

- **Our walk to Jesus:** Buildings on each side flying open/screaming to acknowledge

**Luke 23:8** Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. 9 Then he questioned Him with many words, **but [Jesus] answered him nothing.**

- **Herod King of Jews:** Edomite not a Jew/Usurper to the Throne as is the flesh

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.

- **Tattled to Haman:** Troublemakers knew **Haman hated Jews**

Hey Haman, this Jewish guy wont bow to you. What are you going to do about it?  
Devil tempting the flesh to pay attention to it demands...

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

- **Wrath against Jews:** Picture of Flesh hatred toward Spirit

**Galatians 5:16** Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that **you do not do the things that you wish.**

- Flesh temps us to do what Spirit of Truth says will destroy us...war

**Romans 7:23** [I want to do what is right but...] I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

**Temptation begins at Salvation...before that sin was natural/Now unnatural**

- **At Salvation:** Receive a new nature yet...
- **We retain old nature...** and the two natures don't like each other

**What does the flesh and Spirit look like?**

**Galatians 5:19** Now the **works of the flesh** [who we are without God] are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God

**Sin within is provoked by Devil without promoted by World around [NJC]  
Greater is He who is within us [Spirit] than he who is in the world**

[continued] **...22 But the fruit of the Spirit** [who we are with God] is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, **let us also walk in the Spirit.** 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

- **What does it mean to "Walk in the Spirit"?**

**Walking in the Spirit is relinquishing all rights to self and let Spirit take control**

It is yielding to the Spirit while waiting and expecting God's intervention [NJC]

Haman hates Mordecai as Flesh hates the Spirit even as **Satan provokes/fuels a fight...**

That Jew Mordecai refuses to bow to you. Hey, you don't have to put up with that

- **For us. Hey...**

1. You don't have to forgive
2. You don't have to repent
3. You don't have to love
4. You don't have to obey God
5. **You have your rights...** God should yield to you/bow to your ways?

- **Haman filled with wrath...**Spirit [Mordecai] refuses to bow to the flesh [Haman]
- **Devil provokes the flesh to fury:** Did you see that!

**6 But [Haman] disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai.**

They told Haman? Tattle-ales. There's a whole lotta Jews like Mordecai  
**Flesh never ever satisfied...**

- Distained/Hated to think of hurting Mordecai alone?

**6b...** Instead, Haman sought to destroy **all the Jews** who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the **people of Mordecai**.

- **All Jews in** 127 Persian Provinces from India to Ethiopia. Holocaust

**The people of Mordecai;** i.e. the People of God will always be persecuted

**2 Timothy 3:12** ... all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

- **Combo package:** Salvation and Suffering

**Philippians 1:29** ...to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake...

It is a grave mistake to comfort ourselves by believing the war will stop any time before Jesus returns. [NJC]

- **But...**To the extent we suffer temporally/rejoice Eternally

**1 Peter 4:12** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

- **Suffering/Persecution**

1. Work
2. School
3. Walmart

**Not easy but victory over the flesh is sweet!**  
**We will reap God's Promises/Rewards for doing what is right**

**Hebrews 10:36** ...you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may **receive the promise**

**Galatians 6:9** And let us **not grow weary** while doing good, for in due season **we shall reap** if we do not lose heart.

- We can't do right by trying harder. Trying hard just another form of self-centeredness
- We do right by drawing closer to Jesus/others and yielding our lives to his Spirit

Haman sought to destroy **All the Jews**

**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**."

- **Haman to King:** Nothing about Mordecai. Shrewd

1. Certain people in your Kingdom
2. Different Laws from all other people
3. Don't keep your Laws...to bow to me as you commanded v2

We obey government up until what they ask conflicts w/ God's Word  
**...God's Word says worship Him alone**

**Matthew 4:10** Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

**... it is not fitting for the Jews remain**

**Acts 22:22** [Of Paul] Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is **not fit to live!**

- **Sets date 11 months later**

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."

- **King gave signed ring to Haman**

1. **Relinquishes authority to Flesh**
2. **King did not know how many Jews he just doomed**

**Haman:** The people/their money are given to you  
**I just want the Jews dead.**

- **Hatred of Jews:** Satanic
- Satan has been trying to annihilate/exterminate Jews from their beginnings

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| 1. Pharaoh | Babies         |
| 2. Haman   | Persian Empire |
| 3. Herod   | Israel         |
| 4. Hitler  | Germany        |
| 5. Muslims | Mid-East       |
| 6. AC      | World          |

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.

- Couriers went out by Kings command
- **Dark Day Proclaimed:** 13<sup>th</sup> day of 12<sup>th</sup> month of Adar

**Decree was proclaimed to all: Jews will be annihilated** [As Amalekites should have]  
**Flesh proclaims victory...**

**15b...** So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was **perplexed**.

- **King and Haman drink**
- **People perplexed? When the flesh is in control there is confusion**
  1. Strange decree confused the people
  2. **Yet God is never confused...**

**1 Corinthians 14:33** For God is not the author of confusion but of peace

- Devil laughed in victory as Jesus died on the cross. Stopped laughing 3 days later
- God is never confused, never worried, always in control, always victorious

**Isaiah 59:18** According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, **Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies**; The coastlands He will **fully repay**. 19 So shall they fear The name of the Lord from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; **When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.**

**Zechariah 4:6** ... 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.

- **Great definition for walking in the Spirit**

Not by my might, not by my power...but trusting in Your Spirit  
Surrendering my life completely to God/His Eternal Plan no matter how dark it may look

- **Mordecai hears the decree of man:** All Jews are to be annihilated
- **Little man thinks he calls the shots and yet...**

**Proverbs 19:21** There are many plans in a man's heart, **Nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand.**

**Psalms 33:10** The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, **The plans of His heart to all generations.**

**SUMMARY Haman the Agagite:** Picture of Flesh dealt with on the cross by Jesus Christ

**Numbers 24:7** [Israel's King] ... shall be **higher than Agag**

