

FINDING JESUS IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER

 **Esther 3:7-15** **Date, Decree, Death & Deliverer: God's Sovereignty over Lots & Letters**

- ❖ Phase 1: Set _____ (v.7-11)
- ❖ Phase 2: Issue _____ (vs.12-14)
- ❖ Phase 3: _____ Proclaimed (vs. 15)

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- ❖ Phase 1: Set _____ (v.7-11)
 - **Esther 3:7** - *So in the month of April, during the twelfth year of King Xerxes' reign, lots were cast in Haman's presence (the lots were called purim) to determine the best day and month to take action. And the day selected was March 7, nearly a year later.*
 - **Proverbs 16:33** - *The _____ is cast into the lap, But its every _____ is from the Lord.*
- ❖ Phase 2: Issue _____ (vs.12-14)
 - 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.*

- ➔ Decree translated in ___ the languages of the empire attempting to kill all Jews regardless of gender or age.
- ➔ The decree was drafted 13th day of the 1st month-the day before the _____.
- ➔ Haman's Bogus bribe: _____ talents of silver (half or 2/3 of the empire's annual tax revenue)
- ➔ The King's careless approval: Believed all the lies of Haman (who the people are, what crime committed, lack of regard to human life)

 **Proverbs 24:10-12**

¹⁰ If you fail under pressure, your strength is too small. ¹¹ Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to die; save them as they stagger to their death. ¹² Don't excuse yourself by saying, "Look, we didn't know." For God understands all hearts, and he sees you. He who guards your soul knows you knew. He will repay all people as their actions deserve.

Genocides: Elimination of entire ethnic group:

- ✓ Dafur, Rwanda, Bosnia
- ✓ Herzegovina, Cambodia, Syria
- ✓ Holocaust
- ✓ Satan's attempt seeking to annihilate the line from which the Messiah would come.

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❖ Phase 3: _____ Proclaimed (vs. 15)

- ¹⁵ *At the king's command, the decree went out by swift messengers, and it was also proclaimed in the fortress of Susa. Then the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa fell into confusion.*

➡ _____ months wait until the purge!

➡ Susa was in confusion but Haman & Ahasuerus sat for a drink!

➡ God is to be trusted when his _____ seem to run contrary to his _____.

➡ He is always _____ even in our time of _____ even if it is not always evident.

➡ So even though we do not know God's full plan or how our specific situations will turn out, we can trust God fully. 1 Peter 5:7 - *Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*

📖 Habakkuk 3:17-19

¹⁷ *Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! ¹⁹ The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights.*

FINDING JESUS IN ESTHER - Lessons We can Learn

1. To do anything to the Jews, Haman did not need Ahasuerus's permission but _____, and he was not granting it.
2. Haman's promised silver bought a decree, but it could not buy the demise of _____. Neither the silver given to Ahasuerus nor the silver coins given to _____ could thwart God's purpose.
3. Far worse than Mordecai's refusal to _____ Haman is our refusal to _____ the Lord. We thus stand in need of rescue from our rebellion and refusal to honor the Lord. As the Jews had a savior in Esther, we had one in _____!
4. God has chosen to save His people at great cost. Haman used his _____ to purchase _____, God uses Christ's _____ to purchase _____.
5. Just like the time when the edict to kill the Jews was rolled out, five hundred years later at the time of Passover, it must have seemed that God's plan had been _____ as Jesus died on the cross. Hopes that He was God's promised rescuer were shattered. But His _____ three days later confirmed the completion of God's perfect plan of salvation.

REFLECT & DISCUSS:

1. How can recalling God's faithfulness in the past fuel our trust and faithfulness in the present?

2. The Jews would have certainly been tempted to be fearful and anxious because of the decree. What, if anything, are we as Christians currently fearful or anxious about? How can we cast our cares on him?