



VILLAINS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATION GUIDE

Every story of intrigue has a villain - those people who plot and scheme treachery in a feeble attempt to thwart noble plans and pursuits. In this series, we consider some of the most insidious n'er-do-wells, who because of their influence, cause strife and destruction against the people of God. Can God's people overcome these forces of evil or will the causers of catastrophe prevail?

YOUR HOSTS: Mike and Heather Zander

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HAMAN THE HORRIBLE

It's the grudge that festered over a millennium. The book of Esther chronicles the climax of a battle that waged all the way back in Genesis with the birth of twins Jacob and Esau. This is a true account of an unprovoked attack, a pronouncement of judgement, a disobedient king, and a patient and sovereign God who desires that all should come to repentance - even Horrible Haman.

QUESTIONS

- The Bible is an amazing document with a thread of redemption woven throughout. Our story starts with two families - Jacob and Esau - who are these brothers and why are they important?
- In Genesis 36:15-16 we find a list of Esau's descendants - one name of great significance is Amalek. Where do we see this name again in the Bible, and why is this important? (Exodus 17:8)
- In Exodus 17, God pronounces judgement against Amalek. Four hundred years later, we see this judgment played out - kind of. In 1 Samuel 15, God commands King Saul to destroy Amalek. What happened? Why would God require this of Saul?
- Saul failed through disobedience. Let's go to Esther - almost 600 years later. What's going on? Who's Haman? Who are Mordecai and Esther?
- We mentioned that there is a thread of redemption woven throughout the Bible. What is the redemption story here? How is God's justice portrayed? How is God's long-suffering portrayed?
- What can we learn from this, that can inform us how we are to be agents of redemption and reconciliation?

SPRINGBOARD VERSE

Esther 3:1 NIV After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles.