

## Esther - Week 9

### Lies and Letters

Est 3:5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. 6 Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes. 7 In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, they cast the pur (that is, the lot) in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar. 8 Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom whose customs are different from those of all other people and who do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. 9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will put ten thousand talents of silver into the royal treasury for the men who carry out this business." 10 So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 11 "Keep the money," the king said to Haman, "and do with the people as you please." 12 Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders to the king's satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring. 13 Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews-young and old, women and little children-on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. 14 A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so they would be ready for that day.

- Haman obtains permission to destroy the Jews by slanting his words. He slants the **truth** to make the king feel threatened and caused the king to give the letter to do it.
- Later we will find that the king is stupid but not **innocent** concerning the lies and letters.
- Haman had passion but was driven by a vendetta over someone questioning his position and **pride**.
- What ought to awake us to seek after God is the fear of an evil **heart** mingled with a brilliant mind.
- Satan desires to **trap** our minds in mental torment, over fears, over sin, and over our own failures and futures.

#### 1. God is Still **Sovereign**

- Here is God's **hand** again. It's the same day that the angel of death passed over the Jews in Egypt.

- Jews remembered how blood was placed on the doors in Egypt and the angel of death would **pass over**, again.
- Haman planned destruction; God reminded them of the **deliverance** He would bring and keep bringing.
- What was a time of **remembrance** now becomes a great time of needing God's grace and mercy again.

## 2. Mordecai is Honored, Haman Dishonored

### 3. **God's** Part in Mordecai's Decision Not to Bow

- God is using Mordecai's response, his compliance and complaint, and Haman's **carnality** to put in motion a plan to rescue the Jewish nation once again.
- Do you see God using some circumstance in your life today that doesn't seem right or is uncomfortable, to maybe advance His kingdom or your **faith?**

### 4. Painting a Picture of Haman's **Heart**

- Haman had **selfish** ambitions.
- Haman was driven by his own **narcissism.**
- Haman was a shameless **opportunist.**

## Final Thoughts

A friendly reminder for us: as we begin 2024, let this be a year of seeing everything from the hand of God to make us like the Son of God.