

HADASSAH

#3, Haman – Esther 3:1-15

I Sam 15:30-33, Then he said, "I have sinned; but please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and go back with me, that I may worship the Lord your God." 31 So Samuel went back following Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord.

32 Then Samuel said, "Bring me Agag, the king of the Amalekites." And Agag came to him cheerfully. 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 hewed Agag to pieces before the Lord at Gilgal (in the tribal territory of Benjamin).

As a Benjamite (Est 2:5) is a descendant of Benjamin so is an Agagite a descendant of Agag. And wouldn't you know that here, ~550-years, later comes Haman the Agagite. We definitely got *₁ "trouble in River City" because, at the king's gate is Mordicai the Benjamite.

¹ After these events King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and established his authority over all the princes who were with him. ² All the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman; for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage.

[1.] And speaking of rivers, what is the name of the river that Susa is near? (hint, look at your maps, lesson 1 & 2)

[2.] v:1, promoted Haman, By now we are well acquainted with Ahasuerus. Now if he promotes this guy, then Haman has to be:

a) A splendid citizen of the empire.

b) Able to entertain the king in new and innovative ways..

c) A ruthless piece of rubbish.

d) Able to bring large amounts of gold into the empire coffers.

[3.] v:2, bowed down and paid homage, If they had to be commanded why does it seem the servants already had this guy's number?

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3 Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why are you transgressing the king's command?" 4 Now it was when they had spoken daily to him and he would not listen to them, that they told Haman to see whether Mordecai's reason would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew.

5 When Haman saw that Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage to him, Haman was filled with rage.

6 But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him who the people of Mordecai were; therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

[4.] v:3-4, they told Haman, **What would being a Jew have to do with anything?**

[5.] v:5, filled with rage, **Haman had a serious psychological issue. What was it?**

[6.] v:5 again, From III John 9-11, **why is Haman's problem not limited to only pagan societies?**

[7.] v:6, **Why did Haman hold back from killing Mordecai?**

Mar/ Apr	Apr/ May	May/ Jun	Jun/ Jul	Jul/ Aug	Aug/ Sep	Sep/ Oct	Oct/ Nov	Nov/ Dec	Dec/ Jan	Jan/ Feb	Feb/ Mar
Nissan	Lyyar	Silvan	Tammuz	Ab	Elul	Tishri	eshvan	Chisleb	Tebeth	Shebat	Adar

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7 In the first month, which is the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, Pur, that is the lot, was cast before Haman from day to day and from month to month, until the twelfth month, that is the month Adar.

[8.] v:7, day to day and from month to month, **According to "our" calendar, when did Haman start and when was he finally satisfied and ready to move?**

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8 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from those of all other people and they do not observe the king's laws, so it is not in the king's interest to let them remain.

9 "If it is pleasing to the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who carry on the king's business, to put into the king's treasuries." 10 Then 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 The king said to Haman, "The silver is yours, and the people also, to do with them as you please."

12 Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and it was written just as Haman commanded to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province and to the princes of each people, each province according to its script, each people according to its language, being written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring.

[9.] v:8, Haman had decided on a plan, and then daily threw the dice for a year before approaching the king. Describe their "real" relationship.

[10.] v:8 again, Why or why didn't Haman neglect to mention the nationality of a certain people?

[11.] v:8 final time, Why or why don't you think the king cared?

[12.] v:9, I will pay, In order to sweeten the deal, what did Haman promise the king?

[13.] v:10-11, Why or why don't you feel the king thought a lot about giving Haman the go-ahead?

[14.] v:12, the first month, Let's see now, what month was this?

[15.] v:12 again, About how long did it take for Haman to mobilize his death squads?

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13 Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces to destroy, to kill and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to seize their possessions as plunder. 14 A copy of the edict to be issued as law in every province was published to all the peoples so that they should be ready for this day.

15 The couriers went out impelled by the king's command while the decree was issued at the citadel in Susa; and while the king and Haman sat down to drink, the city of Susa was in confusion.

* Wilson. Meredith "The Music Man"

[16.] v:12 last time, each province according to its script, each people according to its language, **How can we tell that Haman would not tolerate any failures?**

[17.] v:13-14, Which brings up the point, why is it important for us, when we are witnessing or teaching scripture, to use words people understand?

[18.] v:13, thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, **How long did Haman give his gangs to prepare for murder?**

[19.]v:13 again, women and children, **Conceivably, Hadassah, by now, could have given birth to a child and could be carrying a another. If the king realized his child and queen were also to be killed, why or why wouldn't he have cared?**

[20.] v:15, **Why or why wouldn't the Jews be in confusion?**

[21.] v:15 again, **What did Haman and the king do in order to quell the confusion in Susa?**