

HAMAN'S DESTRUCTION: CARNAL CONFLICT

Esther 3.5-6: Haman's response leads the kingdom to darkness

Theme: Evaluate who is in control of your kingdom (Haman or Mordecai) and be ready to fight for control.

In Esther 3 we are introduced to the “villain” of our story (Haman) and his plot against the Jews.

- (v1) Haman comes to power in the kingdom because of a bad decision the king made.
- (v2-4) The king's servants begin to stir up strife because Mordecai refuses to bow to Haman.
- (v5-6) And now we see Haman's reaction... and his response to Mordecai's “rebellion”...

Remember the pictures and types we're developing here:

- Haman is a picture of our flesh, the old man that lives in our bodies and seeks to destroy all that is from God in our lives (like Haman wants to destroy all the Jew's in Ahasuerus's kingdom).
- Ahasuerus is a picture of our soul (us; we who live in these bodies and make decisions each day).
- Shushan the palace (where the king lives) is a picture of our bodies (where our souls live).
- Mordecai is a picture of the Holy Spirit of God who lives in each saved believer.
- And the servants are a picture of our members (eyes, tongue, hands, etc.), who should be serving us... but they often serve the flesh because we have put Haman in charge of our kingdoms.

So, today we are going to see the reaction of Haman (the flesh) to Mordecai (the Spirit)...

I. (v5) Haman's Reaction: A Sad Description (of most Christians today)

A. (v4) Haman hears about Mordecai from the servants, but (v5) when he sees it with his own eyes, he has quite the reaction: He became “full of wrath.”

B. I think the first thing we can note in this reaction is the immaturity and insecurity of Haman.

1. Think about it: He is the prime minister of the entire kingdom of the Medes and the Persians. There is no one more powerful than he, except the king.
 - And he gets all bent out of shape over one, insignificant Jew.
2. Everything that is going to happen in the following chapters (the attempted genocide of the entire Jewish population) is because of this petty reaction of Haman when he lays eyes on Mordecai.
 - a) Haman has the rule over the entire kingdom of Ahasuerus.
 - b) But, one small, insignificant Jew fills him with wrath.
3. Wouldn't you think that a man of that stature would simply brush it off and go on about his business? I mean, “So what?” It's one man... One insignificant little incident. “Who cares?”
4. But it's never like that...

C. Sadly, Haman's response to Mordecai is like that of most Christian's today (because Haman is a picture of the flesh, and many Christian's today allow themselves to be led by the flesh).

1. How many Christians leave a church (or refuse to go to church) because “the pastor wasn't nice to me” or “the pastor didn't say hi to me”?
2. How many Christians don't want to serve in their churches because, “If serving in the church means I have to work with him/her, then forget it!”
3. Because of one person... because of one situation or incident... they are filled with wrath and can't focus on anything else but the petty, little, insignificant problem that upset them so.

D. And so, again, we can see a picture of our flesh (old man) in Haman.

1. If you have problems discerning if Haman or Mordecai (the flesh or the Spirit) is controlling your life, all you have to do is look at the fruit.
 - a) (Gal 5.19-21) Where you see the works of the flesh, like Haman's reaction (hatred, variance, emulation, wrath, strife), you know the flesh is controlling you.
 - b) (Gal 5.22-23) Where you see the fruit of the Spirit, like Mordecai's character (gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness), you know the Spirit is controlling you.
2. (Gal 5.17) According to the Bible, your reaction to people and circumstances will either come from the flesh or from the Spirit—you will act like Haman or Mordecai. Those are the only two options.
3. (Gal 5.16) And, most importantly, understand that your reaction is your choice! We chose to walk in the flesh or walk in the Spirit.
 - a) The goal, of course, is to be filled with (led by) the Spirit. It's up to us.
 - b) But, understand that it is *your choice*. That is why God *commanded* us to walk in the Spirit.

E. (v5) Summary & Review: The Reaction of Haman

1. Haman gets all bent out of shape over Mordecai, and he is filled with wrath.
2. He's a sad but great example of carnal believers today who get bent out of shape over the smallest, most petty and insignificant things in churches... and they become filled with wrath over them!

II. (v6) Haman's Response: A Total Destruction (of all that is from God)

A. Haman's wrath immediately leads him to an obsession: Kill the Jews, all the Jews!

1. He “thought it scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone”: It wasn't enough to just get back at Mordecai. Oh, no. Haman wants to “super-size” it!
2. (Gen 12.1-3) According to God's unconditional promise to His people, how do you think Haman is going come out on the other end of this decision? How do you think Ahasuerus and his kingdom will fare because of this decision?
 - a) (Est 3.1) Ahasuerus is the one who put Haman in charge of his kingdom (his choice!).
 - b) (Est 3.2) Ahasuerus is the one who commanded everyone to bow down to Haman.
 - c) God's promise of Genesis 12.1-3 is unconditional! And it's very similar to another promise we see in the New Testament, given to us...
3. (Gal 6.7-8) You will sow what you read: Sow to the flesh, reap corruption; sow to the Spirit and reap life. Your choice... just like Ahasuerus.

B. Doctrinal Application: Haman's plan prefigures the plan of the coming Antichrist.

1. (Est 3.6; 9.24) Haman wants to kill all the Jew—exterminate them all (genocide).
2. (Rev 12.17) That will be the very same plan the Antichrist puts into effect during the Tribulation.
3. So, don't lose sight of the doctrinal pictures and types just because we are spending more time with the personal application in this chapter.
4. Haman is a picture of the Antichrist who will persecute the Jews throughout the entire world during the Tribulation.

C. Personal Application: Haman's plan pictures the desires of our old man: “Extinguish the light in your kingdom.”

1. Remember this first: (v4) The servants are the traitors! They betrayed Mordecai to Haman.
 - a) And they are a picture of the members of our bodies: They will betray us to the flesh!
 - b) Your eyes... your ears... your tongue... your feet... The members of your body are traitors!
 - c) The moment you trust in your members, they will betray you to the flesh and lead you to follow the flesh. Don't trust the desires of your members!

2. Also note that Haman, instead of attacking Mordecai directly, chose to attack the people of Mordecai living in the kingdom of Ahasuerus.
 - a) He wants to destroy each and every Jew throughout the whole kingdom!
 - b) Our flesh (the old man) won't attack the Holy Spirit directly. Rather, he'll attack the all that is from God in every area of our lives...
 - c) (Mat 5.14-16) The Jews ("ye" in Matthew 5) are the *light* of the world.
 - (1) The Jews, therefore, in Ahasuerus's kingdom are a picture of the "points of light" in our lives where people can see God.
 - (2) (1John 1.5) God is light, therefore when we are godly we give light in this dark world.
 - (3) (John 1.9) Jesus Christ is light, therefore when we are Christ-like, we give light in this dark world.
 - (4) (Ps 119.105) The Word of God is a light, therefore when we preach and teach and speak the Word... we are giving light in this dark world.
 - (5) (Mat 5.14-16) Even our good works, done in the name of God, can be light to the lost.
3. The Jews in the kingdom of Ahasuerus (points of light, according to Matthew 5.14-16) are a picture of the points of light in our lives (godliness, Christ-likeness, speaking the Word).
 - a) And what is Haman's obsession? Kill the Jews... all the Jews! Extinguish each and every point of light there is in the entire kingdom.
 - b) Our flesh (the old man) will strive obsessively to extinguish every last "point of light" there is in our lives.
 - (1) He will seek to rid our lives of anything that is from God, of God, about God, and for God.
 - (2) He wants to destroy everything that is good—every manifestation of God there is in any and every area of our lives. *He wants to destroy your spiritual life.*
 - (3) And if you doubt this... just stop and observe the common, ordinary Christian as he or she goes about his or her common, ordinary life. Then, after you observe the common Christian today...
 - (a) Compare him with Paul, Timothy, Titus, Luke and any other biblical personality that was "full of the Spirit" (i.e., following Mordecai instead of Haman).
 - (b) Do you see the difference? Do you see the relentless, destructive power of the flesh?
 - (c) Churches today are weak and impotent. Christians today are no different than people in the world. Why...? Haman's in charge of the kingdom.

Conclusion: Evaluate who is in control of your kingdom (Haman or Mordecai):

- (Gal 5.19-21) Look at the works of flesh: Do you see them in your life? If so... you need to change something.
- (Gal 5.20-22) Look at the fruit of the Spirit: Do you see it in your life? If not... you need to change something.
- (Gal 5.16-17) And that change is a choice, our choice. God has already done His part and given us everything we need to walk in the Spirit and not after the flesh.
- So... what do *you* need to change to get Haman off the throne and get Mordecai running your life?