**Esther 3:1-15 April 25, 2021**

**God’s People Are in Trouble**

Haman is **Promoted** Esther 3:1-2

* He was put in the highest ruling position in Persia
	+ The reason for Haman’s promotion is not stated
* The result was that all subjects of the kingdom of Persia were forced to bow down (pay homage) to Haman
* Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman

Haman Plots to **Destroy the Jews** Esther 3:3-6

* Mordecai was unwilling to pay respects to Haman
	+ He said the reason he would not bow down to Haman was because he was a Jew
* Haman’s anger was so large that he didn’t want to just kill Mordecai but all of the Jewish people in all of Persia
* This will now become the major theme of the rest of the book of Esther
	+ Haman wants to kill Mordecai and all the Jews
	+ Will God’s people be spared?

Xerxes **Approves Haman’s Plan** Esther 3:7-11

* It had been 5 years since Esther was crowned as Xerxes’ queen (see Esther 2:16)
* They cast lots which is the modern day equivalent of rolling the dice
	+ Even in this small detail, the Jews would have almost 12 full months to work out what would happen
	+ God was sovereignly providing time
* Haman reveals his plan to **exterminate the Jews**
	+ He tells the king “it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them”
	+ The full measure of the whole Persian Empire will be mustered against one race of people
* Proverbs 16:33
The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the Lord.
* Xerxes royal treasury was depleted from the losing war against the Greeks
* Haman is willing to put 10,000 talents of silver into the king’s treasury
	+ The king refused the money
	+ He gave Haman his ring to “seal the deal”
* The date was now set for all Jews to die
* Xerxes did not know it, but he gave Haman the right to literally execute his Queen!

King Xerxes’ Edict is **Issued Across Persia** Esther 3:12-15

* Persia was an empire of many languages
	+ Xerxes gave his ring to Haman and enabled him to have all the copies made in all the various languages
	+ The Jews of all ages and locations, young and old, would all die on one day
	+ Couriers carried the king’s edict over hundreds and hundreds of miles
* Xerxes and Haman sat down to drink
	+ What a sad commentary for a king to do after issuing such a heinous act
	+ Remember: Xerxes is not a great king!
	+ The city of Susa could not understand such a drastic decree

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