**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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