

BOOK OF
ESTHER



Two Plots and a Promotion

Esther 2:19 through 3:15

Esther 2:19-23 ESV

19 Now when the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate.

20 Esther had not made known her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him.

Esther 2:19-23 ESV

21 In those days, as Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

22 And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai.

23 When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. And it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

The Providence of God Works through Seemingly Insignificant Events

**2:23 ... And it was recorded in the book of the
chronicles in the presence of the king.**

**The fact that Mordecai's name would be
recorded as the one who thwarted the
assassination plot WILL be a big deal in a few
chapters!**

Esther 3:1-6 ESV

1 After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and advanced him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him.

2 And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage.

3 Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?"

Esther 3:1-6 ESV

4 And when they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's words would stand, for he had told them that he was a Jew.

5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury.

6 But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

God Sees Our Faithfulness and He Will Never Forget

We would expect for Mordecai to be rewarded or recognized by the King for his part in saving the King's life.

Instead, the opening verses in chapter 3 mention Haman got a promotion!

Revelation 22:12-13 ESV

12 “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Recompense = Reward

Colossians 3:23-24 ESV

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Esther 3:7-15 ESV

7 In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, they cast lots) before Haman day after day; and they cast it month after month till the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

8 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king's laws, so that it is not to the king's profit to tolerate them.

Esther 3:7-15 ESV

9 If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king's business, that they may put it into the king's treasuries."

10 So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews.

11 And the king said to Haman, "The money is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you."

Esther 3:7-15 ESV

12 Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded, was written to the king's satraps and to the governors over all the provinces and to the officials of all the peoples, to every province in its own script and every people in its own language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring.

Esther 3:7-15 ESV

13 Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

14 A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province by proclamation to all the peoples to be ready for that day.

Esther 3:7-15 ESV

15 The couriers went out hurriedly by order of the king, and the decree was issued in Susa the citadel. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was thrown into confusion.

Haman's Family History w/ the Jews

King Saul of the Israelites was of the tribe of Benjamin (like Mordecai!) and he did not destroy King Agag as instructed by the Lord.

But the Prophet Samuel took care of what Samuel should have. (1 Samuel 15:33)

Haman was nursing a grudge that was two centuries old. His prejudice against the Jews ran deep.

Hebrews 12:15 ESV

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no 'root of bitterness' springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.

Romans 12:14-20 ESV

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

Romans 12:14-20 ESV

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”

Put Away Bitterness and Grant Forgiveness

Believers are to be known not just for the love they have for one another but also for the love they have for those who hate them and mistreat them.

The Gospel in Esther

God's people in Esther found themselves in the same position we find ourselves since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden.

A decree of death hangs over us from which we cannot deliver ourselves.

Mordecai refused to honor Haman, but we have refused to honor Jesus as Lord and Savior of our lives. We need to be rescued from our rebellion against God.

Haman was purchasing death with his money, but God used Christ's death to purchase life.

[from "Exalting Jesus in Esther" commentary]

John 3:16 ESV

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 10:9-10 ESV

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

BOOK OF
ESTHER

