

Message #8

Esther 3:7-15

As the people of God, if we live godly, we are destined to suffer certain hardships and difficulties in this world. There will be times when we will face serious opposition and animosity simply because we are God's child trying to please God.

The apostle Paul wrote in II Timothy 3:12 these words: "And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."

As long as Mordecai and Esther were fitting in with everyone else, there was no problem; but when they stood for God and His Word all hell turned against them.

**WHEN A BELIEVER DOES WHAT IS RIGHT, THERE WILL BE THOSE IN HIGH PLACES WHO WILL HATE THEM AND WANT TO GET RID OF THEM AND EVEN WHEN THIS HAPPENS, GOD IS STILL IN SOVEREIGN CONTROL.**

If you take a stand for God and His Word on your job, on your team, in your school, in your family and perhaps even in the church, there will be some who seem to be in powerful positions who will hate you and desire to get rid of you.

The thing Haman neglected to realize, the thing every evil leader fails to realize is that when you attack or turn against God's people, you are attacking and turning against God. No one will ever beat God or push God. God will not be mocked; vengeance is His and He will repay.

**COMPONENT PART #1** – The timing of attacks against God's people is sovereignly determined by God. **3:7**

Things had been relatively smooth for about five years (2:16/3:7). For five years Esther and Mordecai looked like and lived like everyone else; but when Mordecai finally identified himself as being a Jew and stood for what was right, the hatred and animosity surfaced.

Haman decided to exterminate all Jews and the timing, so he thought, he could determine by lot. The word "Pur" is a Babylonian word which refers to a lot or cube-shaped die used to make decisions (Roberts, p. 365). It is this very act and word that will later lead the Jews to name a feast, in the aftermath of all of this, the feast of "Purim" (9:24, 26, 28).

For Haman, the plan and plot was simple; he would cast lots to determine which month he should begin to exterminate the Jew and the lot fell on the twelfth month (3:7). If we keep in mind that the lots were being cast in the first month, we cannot help but observe that the lots fell on the last possible month, the twelfth month.

H. A. Ironside wrote: "Like many a tyrant before, and since, he was a great believer in lucky and unlucky days; so he had the wise men...cast lots...to determine a suited day when all signs would be propitious for the carrying out of his colossal massacre" (Ironside, p. 46).

Now according to the O.T. and the N.T., there was a legitimate place for the casting of lots to determine the will of God. But this is a satanic casting of lots in order to determine the extermination of God's people.

Now of course the real question is why did the lot fall on the last month? Who determined that this ungodly act should be carried out on the twelfth month? The answer is God! God's timing is always perfect even when it is being worked out by those who are godless and evil.

**COMPONENT PART #2** – The people responsible for the attacks against God's people will manipulate others. **3:8-9**

Haman was a manipulative genius. He maneuvered and finessed his way as an artist so the king would see things his way. His tactics were brilliant.

**Tactic #1** - He points out the differences. **3:8a**

Haman was quick to point out that there were differences between the Persians and the Jews. Certainly when a Persian world is given to greed, wine and immorality, God's laws would be different, but they also would be better. When someone wants you out, they will major on differences, even if your differences are better.

**Tactic #2** - He makes up lies. **3:8b**

(Lie #1) - God's people don't obey the laws of the society. **3:8b**

Truth is the Jews were some of the most loyal and dedicated servants to the king; in fact, it was Mordecai who literally saved the king's life (2:21-22).

(Lie #2) - The society would be better off without God's people. **3:8c**

You take God's faithful people out of any society and it is just a matter of time until that society will collapse. Truth is Persia was a blessed power because there were Jews who were living in Persia, two of whom were Mordecai and the queen, Esther.

**Tactic #3** - He offers to fund this with his own money. **3:9**

Haman was shrewd. He offered to pick up the whole expense for executing the Jews. If the king would make a decree, Haman would pay for it. Manipulative schemers will always try and convince you that they have your best interests in view, when in all reality they are only looking out for themselves.

Haman-types are diabolical. They play the game. They know what to say and how to lie and they know how to make just the right offers and moves. But Haman-types eventually pay; we have God's Word on it.

**COMPONENT PART #3** – Those in highest positions of authority may be temporarily swayed to make the wrong decision. **3:10-11**

King Ahasuerus temporarily fell for the manipulative lies of Haman. The text is very clear to point out that Haman was the one who was “the enemy of the Jews,” not the king (**3:10**). The signet ring was his authority; it gave Haman total executive power. He could fully carry out his plan to exterminate the Jew.

The king of the Persian world had turned all of his power to a satanic antichrist who wanted to rid the world of the Jew. But it will be this very signet ring that will ultimately be given to Mordecai (8:2, 8, 10). Haman had the position, he had the power, he had everything he needed on his side except for one thing—he didn’t have God. God was against Haman and would destroy him.

**COMPONENT PART #4** – Those who hate God’s people will incorporate all key people to be involved in the same hate. **3:12-14**

When we stand for God and His Word, there will be those who will hate us and want to get rid of us. They will try to get everyone else to join their cause. God will care for us even if it seems like everyone has turned against us.

**COMPONENT PART #5** – The people react to the attack against God’s people. **3:15**

The couriers carried out their task and took the decree to all the provinces. The king and Haman started drinking. The majority of the people were confused. The majority of the people could see and sense the truth. They knew what was happening against the Jews was wrong.

If you hated God’s people, at this point you appeared to be winning.

If you wanted to destroy God’s people, at this point you appeared to be winning.

If you were one of God’s people, at this point you appeared to be losing and there was nothing you could do about anything.

Who would protect God’s people? Who could intervene in the midst of decisions already made and turn this whole thing around? Who was it that could protect Israel? It was God! God was still sovereign!

There is only one refuge in this hateful, diabolical, evil world—that refuge is God. He is the only one who can deliver us from sin and from Satan.