

**Theme:** We live in the middle of the conflict between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light. Though there is but one outcome to the conflict this is, nevertheless, a dangerous place for God's people to be. But even here, God's "unchangeable decree" to deliver His people from the power of darkness is sure.

**Background/Introduction:**

- A Long-standing feud.
- About 5 years since Esther has become queen.

**I. Haman's reward**

- A. His promotion
- B. His *honor*.
- C. His person.
  - The "Agagite"? – Boos and hisses!
  - Exodus 17:8-16; Deuteronomy 25:17-19; 1 Samuel 15

**II. Mordecai's refusal**

- A. Principle or personal?
  1. Act of worship that violates conscience?
  2. Long-standing animosity
- B. The age-old battle
  1. Bigger than Haman and Mordecai
  2. Bigger than the earthly kingdoms involved
- C. Personal problem – national consequences!
  1. One man's disobedience - a private matter?
  2. Its dreadful consequences

### **III. Haman's revenge**

- A little out of proportion?

A. Persuade the king.

1. The lot – v.7

- Falls on the 12<sup>th</sup> month.

2. The charge?? - v.8

- Accusation of treason.

3. The payoff?

- 300 tons of silver!

- Clinching the deal (Genesis 23:10-16)

B. Seal the edict

1. Total annihilation

2. Confusion reigns

### **IV. What we must remember**

- Obeying the laws of the land may not always mean “peace” for God’s people.
- A matter of principle?
  - There are things worth dying for. Make those choices count.
- The battle started in the garden is ongoing – And God is still in charge!
  - In the world
  - In our hearts
- One man’s disobedience brings a sentence of condemnation upon the all. And one Man’s obedience (The Man, Christ Jesus) brings deliverance to all who trust in Him.