

THE JEWISH PEOPLE DECREED FOR DESTRUCTION

(Esther 3:7-15)

I. INTRODUCTION

II. THE KING'S ROYAL BANQUETS AND THE QUEEN'S DISMISSAL (1:1-22)

III. THE SEARCH FOR A NEW QUEEN (2:1-18)

IV. HAMAN DEVISES A PLOT TO DESTROY THE JEWISH PEOPLE (3:6-15)

A. Haman is PROMOTED (3:1-6)

1. Like any captivating story, the book of Esther has a historical, real life _____ in the person of Haman; and we are given the _____ he hated the Jewish people.
2. His _____ having been wounded, Haman set about to take _____ not only on Mordecai, but also on all of Mordecai's relatives.
3. Haman might have been successful in getting Mordecai executed, but when he decided to annihilate the Hebrew people that God had _____ to _____ (Gen. 12:1-3), he would ultimately be making himself an _____ of divine judgment.

B. Haman's PROPOSAL (3:7-9)

1. The word "*Pur*" is the Persian word for the casting of lots, and the Jews would eventually call this victorious _____ "*Purim*," named after Haman's lot. (v. 7)
 - a. In the pagan ancient Near East, it was unthinkable to make plans of this magnitude without first _____ astrological _____.
 - b. God sovereignly controlled the casting of lots (Prov. 16:33), and gave the Jews almost a year to prepare to _____ for this life-threatening conflict.

2. By Haman _____ mentioning to the king the Jewish people specifically by name, he ultimately set himself up for Esther's monumental disclosure that they were _____ people. (v. 8)

* What are some possible reasons why Haman did not mentioned the Jews by name?

3. By stating such a large sum of money (10,000 talents of silver), Haman was trying to communicate to the king that the _____ of this "*certain people*" would be quite _____. (v. 9)

C. Haman has PERMISSION (3:10-15)

1. The king's "*signet ring*" was synonymous with his _____, and Haman "*the _____ of the Jews*" satanically held its power in his hand. (vv. 10-11)
2. Not by coincidence, the thirteenth day of the first month (the day on which the edict decreeing the Jews' extermination was dispatched), happened to be the day preceding the _____. (v 12)
3. Haman dictated the decree to the scribes (v. 12) "*to _____, to _____, and to _____ all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women in one day.*" (v. 13)
4. While the collaborators _____, the average citizen in the city of Susa was _____ at the planned massacre. (vv. 14-15)

* What can you apply in your own life from this study?