

It's Time - Living For Jesus In Our Day

Sunday, December 1, 2019

VIDEO: The Bible Project - Esther

It's Time to stop swimming in cultural currents

It's Time to clothe ourselves with the beauty of Holiness

It's Time to take a stand for what's right

It's Time to understand that everything is written down

Esther 3 New International Version (NIV)

Haman's Plot to Destroy the Jews

3 After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. **2** All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.

3 Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?" **4** Day after day they spoke to him, but he refused to comply. Therefore, they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behavior would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew.

5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. **6** Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

7 In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the *pur* (that is, the lot) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on [a](#) the twelfth month, the month of Adar.

8 Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. **9** If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king's administrators for the royal treasury."

10 So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. **11** “Keep the money,” the king said to Haman, “and do with the people as you please.”

12 Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman’s orders to the king’s satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring. **13** Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king’s provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. **14** A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so they would be ready for that day.

15 The couriers went out, spurred on by the king’s command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was bewildered.

It’s time for us to understand who our enemy is and how he operates

KEY NEW TESTAMENT TEXTS:

Ephesians 6:11-12 New International Version (NIV)

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

2 Corinthians 2:11 New International Version (NIV)

11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

4 to 5 years after Esther is made queen the story continues. Here we are introduced to a new character - Haman. Again, there are a couple of questions that we need to investigate that help us understand the main idea of chapter 3 as it relates to our series.

1. First of all, why the gap of time between chapter 2 and chapter 3?
2. And secondly who is this new character?

The end of chapter 2 would have been a great place to say and they lived happily ever after. Likewise, it would be so much easier if we could write that same ending after we made the choice to stop swimming in cultural currents and clothe ourselves with the beauty of holiness - in other word when we get saved.

As I said before, I feel like there are so many pictures of our salvation in the book of Esther. Here in chapter 3 we see some more. We give ourselves to Jesus. He comes into our hearts and changes us as we begin our relationship with Him. And for many these first days, weeks, months, even years are filled with the joy of our salvation, a hunger to learn more about him, the tangible sense of His presence in our lives. And then as time goes by, if we are not careful, our affections can begin to fade, the realities and tribulations of life can, distract us, cause us to doubt his love for us, drain us of our passion to be in his presence.

This gap speaks to me of life after salvation but before the glory of eternity

Then enter the villain. Haman. He, of course represents the enemy of our souls, but let's take a look at a few more details that the author included in this chapter

Haman is described as an Agagite

[3:1](#) son of Hammedatha, the Agagite. There is some debate about the ancestry of Haman. The name Hammedatha appears to be Persian and probably refers to an immediate ancestor. The title "Agagite" could refer to some other immediate ancestor or to an unknown place; however, it is far more likely that it refers to Agag, king of Amalek ([1Sa 15:20](#)). The Amalekites had attacked Israel after she fled from Egypt ([Ex 17:8-16](#); [1Sa 15:2](#)); for this reason the Lord would "be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation" ([Ex 17:16](#)).

Exodus 17:16 New International Version (NIV)

16 He said, "Because hands were lifted up against[a] the throne of the Lord,[b] the Lord will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

Israel was not to forget but must "blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven" ([Dt 25:19](#)). Saul's attack on Amalek ([1Sa 15](#)) resulted in the death of most, though not all ([1Ch 4:42-43](#)), of King Agag's people and later in the death of the king himself. Centuries after the battle led by the Benjamite Saul, the Benjamite Mordecai (see note on [2:5](#)) continues the war with the Amalekites.

For us, Hama represents then an ageless enemy who longs for our destruction

- He was a high-ranking member of Gods Court

Luke 10:18 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸ He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Revelation 12:7-9 New International Version (NIV)

⁷ Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

- Pride made him think he deserved his position and much more

Isaiah 14:12-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹² How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! ¹³ You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

Ezekiel 28:13-19 New International Version (NIV)

¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. ¹⁶ Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. ¹⁷ Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. ¹⁸ By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. ¹⁹ All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.”

Humility. The juxtaposition of Haman and Mordecai

elevating him. The fact that no reason is given for the promotion of Haman provides an ironic contrast between the unrewarded merit of Mordecai ([2:21–23](#); see [6:3](#)) and the unmerited reward of Haman.

- He wants us to worship him instead of God

Matthew 4:9 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Notice that He is not interested in Mordecai's response, one way or the other, to the King, only in having him bow down to himself.

- He hates all God's people

John 10:10 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

1 Peter 5:8 New International Version (NIV)

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

- He is a manipulator, a deceiver, and an accuser of the brethren

Genesis 3:1-5 New International Version (NIV)

³ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

2 Corinthians 11:3 New International Version (NIV)

³ But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

John 8:44 New International Version (NIV)

⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Revelation 12:10 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰ ...For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

- **He has many resources at his disposal**

Sickness, death, disease, teptations, lust, power, fame, fortune, drugs, alcohol, darknes, demons, spiritual forces

Ephesians 6:12 New International Version (NIV)

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- **He is not equal with God**

- **We may not understand it all, but we have the advantage of knowing what happens in the end**

We may ask, why did God create him, why doesn't he get rid of him already? Why do we see him in the book of Job and the book of Zechariah as having any access at all to the throne of God? I do not pretend to have all those answers; but what I do know is that God has a plan and that in His time, as Romans 12:16 says...

Romans 16:20 New International Version (NIV)

²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10 New International Version (NIV)

20 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

⁷ When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. ⁹ They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

***Satan:** It's time to launch my final, most vicious attack. I'll remind the saints of their past- how they were liars, cheaters, manipulators and moochers*

***Demon:** But sir, you know what will happen if you remind the saints of their past*

***Satan:** And what is that?*

***Demon:** Sir, they'll just remind you of your future*

- Carman, Revival In The Land