

The Enemy Has a New Name

vv. 1-6

Haman the Agagite was from a dreaded people. (**Exodus 17:8-16**) Haman is disrespected and his pride was so great that he wanted to kill all the people. Imagine 1 person not saluting the president and he wants to kill that nationality of people.

Haman's plan is unveiled. He wants to use the king to make one of those decrees that can never be revoked, in order to kill all of the Jews. But notice his cunning:

- Haman doesn't even tell the king who the people are. He keeps them impersonal—the only description he gives the king is that they don't keep his laws. No proof, just Haman's word.
- Haman goes on to tell the king that it doesn't profit him to keep these people around; but of course, he gives no evidence for this claim either. In actuality, the evidence is quite the opposite, because without the Jews, the king would not be married to Esther. In fact, without the Jews, the king would be dead, because Mordecai had saved his life.
- Before the king can ask him for more details, Haman offers him what he knows the king really cares about: money. Haman shows the king that it would be profitable for him to destroy these people because he will give the king 10,000 talents of silver.

vv.7-9

“Haman may have thought that the stars were in control of the dice, and that his gods were picking the best possible day for the massacre. But he was wrong. Proverbs 16: 33 says, *“The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.”* You see, it was the Lord Who caused the lots to fall far enough away that He would have 11 months to orchestrate His rescue plan.”

vv.10-15

How many times have we traded our integrity for a laugh or our purity for a moment of passing pleasure? You see, we don't ask questions, because we want to believe the enemy. We want to believe that there will be no consequences for our actions. Think about the king: he wants to think that he can give Haman his signet ring and take his 10,000 talents, and that there won't be any consequences for it.

That is what he wants to believe, and Haman has purposely left out any of the consequences so that the king won't have to think about them. But just because he has left them out doesn't mean they aren't there. There are consequences every time we give away the signet ring of our life. If Haman had his way,

We have an enemy much worse than Haman...**The World, Flesh and the Devil (1 Peter 5:8)**

“Your people are rebellious, let me destroy them, “No. No, you can't have My people.” And for a moment Satan couldn't believe what he heard because it seemed like God wasn't being **just**. God's people deserved destruction; if God were going to be just, then He couldn't simply say, “No.” Here, we begin to see God's logic, which is deeper than anything we could ever ask or imagine. Here, God doesn't just tell Satan, “No.”

Instead, he takes His Son—His only Son, Whom He loves—and He says to Satan, “Here, take Him and do to Him what seems good to you, for my Son has willingly chosen to take the punishment that my people deserve.”

Where King Ahasuerus takes money to destroy an innocent people, God gives His only Son in order to save sinners.

*²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement,^[i] through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.” **Romans 3:23-25***

Just and Justifier

Jesus became what I was so I could become what he is. God provided what sinners need to be Holy and right before God without compromising is Holy standard. *²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin^[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5;20-21*

That is one of the messages that the book of Esther teaches us: God is in control even when we don’t see Him. From the moment Haman has come on the scene, this story has gone from bad to worse until it seems like all of God’s people will be killed and all of His promises made void. But that isn’t what happens in this story, because even when you can’t see Him, God is in control. The Hero is alive, He has a plan, and He will save His people. I don’t know what you are going through right now. I don’t know what’s overwhelming you today. I don’t know what part of your life you are struggling to see God in or to understand what He is doing. But what I do know is this:

- Your God is alive.
- He has a plan.
- If you trust Him, He will save you. Period.”

