

## Esther 3:1-15 **Haman's attempt to exterminate all Jews from the kingdom of Ahasuerus**

### Haman's Conspiracy Against the Jews

1 After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him.

2 And all the king's servants who were within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.

3 Then the king's servants who were within the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?"

4 Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told it to Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew.

5 When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath.

6 But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus — the people of Mordecai.

7 In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, the lot), before Haman to determine the day and the month, until it fell on the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

8 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain.

9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasuries."

10 So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

11 And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people are given to you, to do with them as seems good to you."

12 Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded — to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring.

13 And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions.

14 A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day.

15 The couriers went out, hastened by the king's command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

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## Facts Revealed:

- ☪ Haman was an Agagite descended from Agag king of the Amalekites the enemy of the Jews. [Esther 3:10, 1 Samuel 15:8]
- ✧ Yahweh said that He would have war with Amalek from generation to generation. [Exodus 17:14-16]
- ☪ King Ahasuerus promoted Haman above all the princes who were with him and commanded them to bow and pay homage to Haman. All the king's servants who were within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman. [Esther 3:1-2]
- ✧ Mordecai refused to bow or pay homage to Haman because he was a Jew and forbidden to bow to anyone beside Yahweh. [Esther 3:3-4, Exodus 20:3-4, 23:24, Deuteronomy 5:9, Joshua 23:6-8]
- ☪ Haman saw that Mordecai refused to bow to him and was filled with wrath, but did not want to lay hands on Mordecai alone, he sought to **destroy all the Jews** throughout the entire kingdom of Ahasuerus. [Esther 3:5-6]
- ☪ They cast Pur before Haman to determine the day and month to destroy the Jews. [Esther 3:7]
- ☪ Haman did not mention the Jews but told the king that a certain people were scattered among all the provinces of the kingdom who do not keep the king's laws because they have a law of their own and should therefore be eliminated from the kingdom. Haman offered to pay ten thousand talents of silver himself to pay for their destruction. [Esther 3:8-9]
- ☪ The king gave Haman his signet ring to authorize him to do as he desired. [Esther 3:10-11]
- ☪ The king's scribes were called and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded, sealed with the king's signet ring, and sent to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language to annihilate all Jews, men, women, and children on the thirteenth of Adar, and plunder their possessions. [Esther 3:12-14]
- ☪ The couriers went out, hastened by the king's command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel.  
So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed. [Esther 3:15]