

## Esther (3) 3:7-8

### A. The PLOT of Haman (3:7-15)

- Haman uses the superstition of **lots** to determine his “lucky day” to set for his Anti-Semitic plan to exterminate all Jews in the land (v7)
- Haman **deceives** the king into thinking that all Jews were refusing to obey him and that they were a threat to his kingdom (v8)
- Haman **advices** the king to hire out the job of killing all the Jews (v9)
  - ✓ **Esther 3:9** - Haman offers to pay a **reward** of silver to the murderers of the Jewish people out of his very own pocket
    - 10,000 talents of silver is equal to 375 tons (Persia used silver as their monetary standard)
    - Haman was either very rich himself or planned to use the loot confiscated from the Jews after they were killed
  - ✓ This **massacre** could be carried out all the way to Palestine which was part of the Persian empire under Xerxes
    - Be careful who you seek as advisors (Advisors who are prejudiced or only tell part of the story, are advisors who will cause you to make horrific decisions)
    - Be careful who you hold a grudge against
- **Esther 3:10-12; Esther 3:13-15** - **The king gives Haman total authority to carry out the plan seen in his giving his ring** (v10-11)
  - ✓ Though the edict was signed in the first month of the year, due to the result of the lot it was not to be **carried** out until the 12<sup>th</sup> month (the Jews would live in misery knowing what awaited)
  - ✓ This execution included **young** and old, women and children
- Haman had all the papers drawn up, sealed, and **distributed** through the kingdom resulting in even non-Jews being perplexed (v12-15)

### B. **Esther 4:1-4** - The PAIN of the Jews (4:1-17)

- Mordecai was very **upset** realizing that it was his refusal to bow before Haman that was the source of this plan and he put on sackcloth and ashes...a public sign of mourning (v1)
  - ✓ Jews all through the land were greatly **disturbed** (v2-3)

- ✓ Esther, unknowing of the plan, hears of Mordecai’s **mourning** and sends clothes to comfort him which he refuses (v4)
- ✓ **Esther 4:5-8** - **Esther then sends a messenger to find out the situation** (v5-6)
- Mordecai does three things (v7-8)
  - ✓ He tells the messenger of Haman’s **plot**
  - ✓ He gives the messenger a **copy** of the decree to show Esther
  - ✓ He asks the messenger to tell the **queen** that she must go to the king and expose herself as a Jew and plea for her people
- **Esther 4:9-11** - **Esther sends word back that she is troubled by the request** (v9-11)
  - ✓ It was widely known that for a person, even the queen, to come before the king without being summoned usually ended in death
  - ✓ Because the king had not sent for Esther in 30 days, it was very unlikely that he would want to accept her (lost some interest?)
- **Esther 4:12-14** - **Mordecai reminds Esther of 3 things** (v13-14)
  - ✓ Based on the decree, she too should be **killed** and Mordecai predicts that this would happen if Esther kept quiet
  - ✓ If she doesn’t, God would **deliver** His people through another
  - ✓ Perhaps this was the very **reason** (saving the Jewish race) that God allowed her to go from orphan to queen
- **Esther 4:15-17** - **Esther requests of her own people a 3-day commitment to fasting on her behalf as she prepared to make her request to the king** (v15)
- Esther’s **confidence** in God is seen...“If I perish, I perish” (v16)
  - ✓ Not until we truly believe that **one** person can make a difference will we be willing to take a risk
  - ✓ **The king’s heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes** (Proverbs 21:1)