

Lesson 6
The Promotion of Haman and the Plot of Haman
(Esther 3)

Questions

1. What did the king do for Haman and what did the king's servants do as a result of this (3:1-2)?

2. What did Mordecai do regarding the king's command to bow down to Haman (3:3-4)?

3. How did Haman react to Mordecai's refusal (3:5-6)?

4. What was done in the first month and twelfth year in front of Haman (3:7)?

5. What request did Haman make of the king and what was the king's response (3:8-11)?

6. What did Haman have written and sent to the leaders of the provinces (3:12-15)?

7. What did Haman and the king do after Haman's decree was sent out (3:15)?

Digging Deeper

1. How much time has passed at this point in the story and what is the approximate date for the "twelfth year" of Ahasuerus (3:7; see 1:3 and 2:16)?

2. What time of the year was "the first month, which is the month of Nisan" (3:7, 12) and "the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar" (3:13)?

3. What was the purpose for casting Pur (the lot) on this occasion (3:7; see 3:13; 9:24)? Was the decision made from the casting of the lot on this occasion given by the Lord as Proverbs 16:33 teaches?
4. How was Haman's accusation against the Jews filled with both truth and error at the same time (3:8; compare with Acts 16:21; 17:7)?

Applications for Today

1. A person should not allow his promotion and advancement in life to cause him to become proud (3:1-4; Prov. 25:27; Dan. 5:20; Obadiah 3; 1 Tim. 6:17).
2. Anger can lead a person to plan and do bad things to hurt others (3:5-6; Psa. 37:8; Prov. 14:17; 15:18; 29:22).
3. Christians do not use the practices of the occult, magic, or astrology to give them guidance in life (3:7; Acts 8:9; Gal. 5:20; Rev. 18:23).
4. Just because people in power have codified their laws does not necessarily mean that their laws are morally and ethically right and good (3:7-15; Psa. 94:20; Isa. 10:1; Acts 5:29).
5. God's people will have enemies who do not like them (3:10; Mt. 13:39; Acts 13:10; Rom. 12:20).
6. Bad news brings mixed responses (3:15; Ex. 33:4; Psa. 112:6-7).