

Book Study on Esther
Haman's Plot
Esther 3:6-15
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Oakleaf Baptist Church, Orange Park, Florida
Sunday, June 21, 2020 PM

Introduction

- Review books of the Bible: Genesis – Esther
- Introduced to Haman

Let's pick up here in chapter 3 and verse 6

Bible

Est 3:6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.

Est 3:7 In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

Est 3:8 And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them.

Est 3:9 If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.

Est 3:10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.

Lets look a little deeper into these verses:

Est 3:6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.

- “they had shewed him the people of Mordecai:” [Mordecai had told the king's servants, that talked with him on the subject, that he was a Jew, and gave that as a reason why he could not and would not reverence Haman:](#)¹
- [Haman's wrath was so excessive that to punish the man who excited it seemed to him as nothing. The whole nation to which his enemy belonged must perish.](#)²

Est 3:7 In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

- [Nisan = March or April of 474 B.C.](#)³
- [According to the chronology in our Bibles, about 510 years before Christ.](#)⁴
- [being a Persian word, it is explained in Hebrew a lot, the word signifying "steel" in the Persian language. conjectures that this was that sort of lot called "sideromantia". Who cast this lot is not said; whether Haman himself, or one of his servants: perhaps a diviner. The latter Targum calls him Shimshai the scribe.](#)⁵
- [Adar - which answers to part of January and part of February;](#)
- [so that the lot was cast for every month and every day of the month throughout the year, to find out which was the most lucky month, and which the most lucky day in that month, to destroy the Jews in and none could be found till they came to the last month, and the thirteenth day of that month,](#)

¹ Gill, John. "Commentary on Esther 3:6". "The New John Gill Exposition of the Entire Bible".

² The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges, Text Courtesy of BibleSupport.com.

³ Barnes, Albert. "Commentary on Esther 3:7". "Barnes' Notes on the Whole Bible"

⁴ Clarke, Adam. "Commentary on Esther 3:7". "The Adam Clarke Commentary"

⁵ Gill, John. "Commentary on Esther 3:7". "The New John Gill Exposition of the Entire Bible"

- Esther 3:13, the providence of God so overruling the lot, that there might be time enough for the Jews, through the mediation of Esther to the king, to prevent their destruction; so in other nations the Heathens had their lucky and unlucky days⁶

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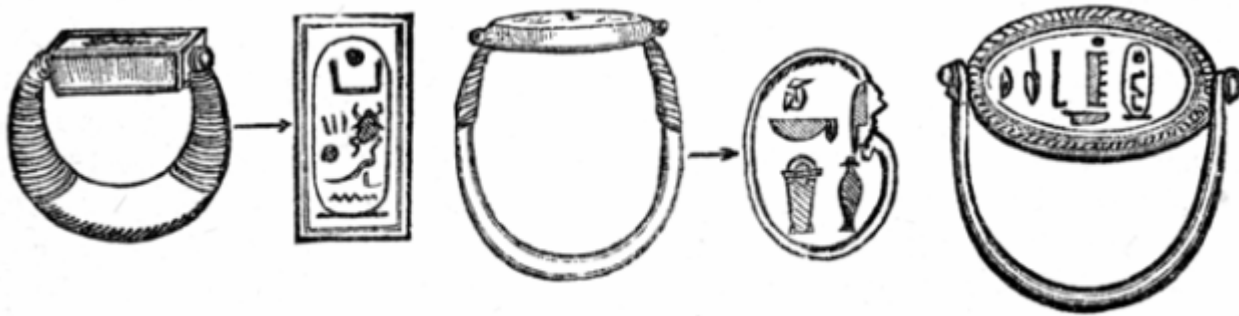
- *scattered abroad] better, as marg., separated. peoples] See on Esther 1:11.*
- *The Jews who availed themselves of Cyrus's decree permitting their return to Jerusalem (b.c. 538) 64 years earlier.*
- *The Book of Tobit (the date of which, though it cannot be fixed with certainty, may at any rate be taken as pre-Maccabean) speaks of settlements of Jews at Rages (in Media) and at Ecbatana (Esther 1:14, Esther 7:1).*
- *[95] The title of the passage Deuteronomy 6:4-9, as commencing with the word שמע, Shēma', hear. It was recited twice a day by every adult male Israelite*

Est 3:9 If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.

- Let it be written that they may be destroyed — Let a written edict from the king be published for that purpose;⁶
- This sum, reckoning by the Babylonish talent, will be about \$10,000,000; but estimated according to the Jewish talent, it will considerably exceed \$15,000,000, an immense contribution to be made out of a private fortune.⁷

Est 3:10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.

- Ring



Egyptian Rings and Signets.

- As a token of his affection for him, and a mark of honour to him; for a king to give a ring to anyone was a token and bond of the greatest love and friendship imaginable; and it may be this was given to Haman, to seal with it the letters that were or should be written, giving order for the destruction of the Jews.¹

Making wise choices:

Do not make them in haste

Be careful who you allow to influence your choices, be aware of their bias

Do your due diligence to research and verify information, in order to provide personal familiarity with the facts.

Be especially careful when you are told you have something to gain by someone else's loss

⁶ Benson Commentary on the Old and New Testaments

⁷ Jamieson, Robert, D.D.; Fausset, A. R.; Brown, David. "Commentary on Esther 3:9". "Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible".