

# HAMAN'S FIRST MENTION

## Esther 3.1: Who is this guy Haman and where did he come from?

**Theme:** (a lesson from Haman's past that allowed Haman to cause problems in the present) Obey God completely and without hesitation, even if you don't understand why... or you'll sow a seed that will bear some very far reaching and destructive fruit in your life.

**We are starting Esther chapter 3, and that means we are starting the third section of this book.**

- As we start this chapter, we read these words: “*After these things...*”
- God specifically draws our attention to the order of events and the chronology of this story. They are important in what He has to teach us in the Book of Esther.
- **Chronology:** (v7 cf. 2.16) Esther married King Ahasuerus in the seventh year of his reign and now we are seeing events in the twelfth year. So, five years have passed since we last saw events in Esther.
- **Events:** But, just as important as the time element (or maybe even more so) is the order of events. Esther 3.1 says, “*After these things...*” What things? Let's review:

### 1. (Est 1-2) Esther

- ✓ Vashti (the Gentile queen) was “raptured” off the throne in judgment for her disobedience in chapter 1 and then in chapter 2 Esther (the Jewish queen) was joined to the king in marriage.
- ✓ **Doctrinally:** A picture of the rapture the Church and the restoration of Israel with God the Father.
- ✓ **Personally:** (Rom 6) A picture of the conversion of a lost man (repentance and a new spirit).

### 2. (Est 3-7) Haman

- ✓ Haman, the great enemy of the Jews, comes on the scene and seeks to oppose the people of God.
  - ➔ Haman is the villain of our story (and what kind of story doesn't have a villain?!).
  - ➔ It's interesting to note that each year during the Feast of Purim (a feast established because of the events recorded in Esther; Est 9.26-28), Jews will congregate in their synagogues and read through the Book of Esther. When the name of Haman is read, the people will stomp their feet, hiss, boo, shake noisemakers (called “Groggers”) and holler out *that his name be obliterated*. But, when the name Mordecai is read, the cheer for victory!
  - ➔ Haman's the bad guy... and he's a really bad guy.
- ✓ **Doctrinally:** We are going to see that Haman is a picture of the Antichrist during the coming time of Tribulation.
- ✓ **Personally:** (Rom 7) Haman is also a picture of our greatest enemy, the flesh—our old man.

### 3. (Est 8-10) Mordecai

- ✓ Mordecai, when the king puts him in charge, leads God's people to victory over their enemies.
- ✓ **Doctrinally:** A picture of the second coming and the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom.
- ✓ **Personally:** (Rom 8) Our victory comes when we choose to put the Holy Spirit in charge!

**In chapter 3 we see Haman appear for the first time in the Book of Esther.**

- According to the *law of first mention*, we should be able to learn a lot about Haman in this passage.
- We are going to first see what we can learn from his name and his lineage.
- Then we are going to take a look again at our pictures and types to see just how Haman fits in with what God is teaching us in Esther.

## I. Haman in History: The Agagite – The Historical Application

### A. Haman, His Name

1. Haman's name means two things.
  - a) First: *Haman* means magnificent and glorious.
  - b) Second: *Haman* means rage, furious, tumult, disorder.
2. As we'll see as we continue with our study of Haman in Esther, this man is a picture of the greatest enemy we have who lives right here in Shushan the palace (in our bodies): The flesh, the old man!
  - a) At first, our old man (who seems capable of doing so much for us, and doing it well—we “lean on the arm of flesh” quite often) often seems *magnificent* and *glorious*.
  - b) But it doesn't take very long for us to realize that he's really an enemy full of rage, fury, contention (tumult), and disorder.
  - c) Haman's name begins to show us a personal picture of our enemy, the flesh (the old man).
3. Haman's name also reflects the doctrinal (prophetic) picture we see in this man: the Antichrist.
  - a) (Dan 9.27a) When the Antichrist comes on the scene during the first half of the Tribulation, he is magnificent and glorious; he establishes peace in the Middle East (therefore world peace!).
  - b) (Dan 9.27b) But during the last half of the Tribulation, this “magnificent” and “glorious” man is revealed for what he truly is: the furious, raging enemy of all that is from God. He is the instrument of the tumultuous disorder that wreaks havoc among the inhabitants of the earth.
4. Haman's name in history gives us a good starting point to understand this man and his part in the events we see in the Book of Esther.
  - And in addition to his name, God also gives us a word or two about his lineage...

### B. Haman, His Lineage

1. Haman is an Agagite: He's a descendant of Agag: (1Sam 15.8) the king of the Amalekites.
  - Note: Haman is from the people Amalek, specifically from the royal line of their king, Agag.
2. Our First Observation: God hates the nation of Amalek.
  - a) (Gen 36.12-16) The nation of Amalek are descendants of Esau through his wife Adah.
  - b) (Mal 1.1-3 cf. Rom 9.13) God hates Esau (the nations that came from him, not the person).
    - (1) (Gen 25.20-26, esp. v23) God hates the *nations* that came from Esau, not the individuals. Each individual that has ever been born has had the same opportunity to respond to the light God has given him, and thus be saved. We are talking about *nations*, not individuals.
    - (2) The people of Amalek are descendants of Esau; they form a nation hated by God. Why...?
3. Our Second Observation: Agag, king over the Amalekites, and his people (the Amalekites) were pronounced *anathema* by God (that means: completely set apart for total destruction).
  - (1) (Exod 17.14-16) God promised to totally obliterate the Amalekites, to put out even the remembrance of them. He will war against them until they are totally destroyed.
  - (2) Why is that...?
    - (a) (Deut 25.17-18) The Amalekites were cowards and attacked Israel from the “hindmost” (from behind), picking off the weak (the sick, the old, the frail).
    - (b) (Exod 17.8-13) After that attempt to wipe out Israel when they fled from Egypt, the Amalekites again attacked God's people, this time in open battle.
    - (c) (Num 24.20a) God says Amalek is the “first of the nations”; they were the first to attack Israel when God brought them up out of Egypt.

- (3) (Num 24.20b) Therefore, God pronounced His sentence: They will perish for ever.
  - (a) (Deut 25.19) God commanded Israel, when they were established in the land, to completely blot out this people, even to the remembrance of them (*anathema*).
  - (b) (1Sam 15.1-3) God specifically commanded Saul to carry out this sentence on Amalek.
- 4. Haman's lineage, just like his name, shows us a good picture of the enemies of God...
  - a) (Rom 8.7) *Our flesh* is at enmity with God continually, just like Haman, the Agagite.
    - (1) (Gal 5.17) Just like Agag and his Amalekites fought against God and His people in the Old Testament, so the flesh wars against God and His people in the New Testament.
    - (2) Haman is a picture of the flesh, our old man that lives in our members and wars against all that is good (all that if from God) in our lives.
  - b) (2Thes 2.3-4) *The Antichrist*, the coming son of perdition, will oppose all that is called God, just like Haman, and Haman's people, the Amalekites.

### C. Review: Haman in History

- 1. In his name we can see the two-faced nature of both the coming Antichrist and our own flesh.
- 2. In his lineage we can see a picture of how both the Antichrist and our flesh are just like Haman and his people, the Amalekites: They are the perpetual enemies of God, sentenced to destruction.

## II. Haman in Prophecy: The Antichrist – The Doctrinal Application

### A. (Est 3.1) “*After these things...*” Haman rises to power and prominence.

- 1. (Est 1.12, 19) ...after the rapture of the Gentile queen from her place of prominence in the world (a picture of the rapture of the Church in judgment for her failure to obey the Lord)...
- 2. (Est 2.16-17) ...after the marriage of the Jewish queen to king (a picture of the reconciliation of Israel with God the Father)...
- 3. (Est 2.19) ...after the *two* gatherings of the virgins (a picture of the calling out and subsequent rapture of the 144,000 Jewish witnesses during the first half of the Tribulation)...

### B. (Est 3.1) “*After these things...*” Haman is given his place of power for a short time...

- 1. (2Thes 2.3-4 cf. Mat 24.15) This is a doctrinal picture of the “abomination of desolation” when the Antichrist reveals himself as God in the flesh and claims the throne to rule the world.
- 2. (Dan 9.27) This happens at the middle of the Tribulation, Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week of years, and...
- 3. (Dan 9.27b cf. Est 3.6) ...it marks the beginning of a global persecution to exterminate the Jews.

### C. Haman is doctrinal (prophetical) picture and type of the coming Antichrist.

## III. Haman in Your Life: The Old Man – The Personal Application

- A. (Prov 6.16-19) Everything about Haman (Proverbs 6.16-19 matches Haman perfectly), God hates.
- B. (1Pet 2.11) Haman (your flesh) will war against you and everything that is good in your life (he will make war against everything that is of God and he will strive to destroy it all).
  - 1. Remember, Haman is in Shushan the capitol, just like your old man still lives in your flesh.
  - 2. (Rom 7.19-23) Haman lives in Shushan! He's right there in your body!
    - a) (Rom 7.24) Where will deliverance come from? Where did Ahasuerus find deliverance?
    - b) (Rom 7.25) Deliverance will come when you put Mordecai (the Spirit of God, of Christ) on the throne and allow him to run your kingdom.
- C. (Eph 4.22-24) Haman is like your flesh (totally corrupt in his lusts), and God wants you to put him down and set up Mordecai as your “prime minister” running the affairs of your “kingdom.”

## **Conclusion:**

### **I would like to go back to Agag and the Amalekites to find a fitting conclusion for this message.**

- Haman is the son of Hammedatha the Agagite. Haman is a descendant of Agag, king of Amalek.
- (1Sam 15.1-3) God told Saul very specifically what He wanted done with the people of Amalek. There was no “gray area”; God was very specific (just like with us: we have His specific words in Scripture).
- (1Sam 15.4-9) But rather than obey God (rather than complete obedience), Saul chose rather to obey according to his own ideas of what was “good” and what was “vile and refuse.”
  - ✓ Note: (v8) Saul refused to kill Agag... Haman is from the line of Agag (an Agagite).
  - ✓ (v33) Later Samuel hacks Agag into pieces with a sword, but Saul refused to do it.
- How many problems did Saul cause for himself and for the people of God by his incomplete obedience?
  - ✓ (v22-23) His incomplete obedience to the words of God was *disobedience* and God said it was *rebellion* and *idolatry* (because he set himself up as God, on the throne of his life).
  - ✓ (Est 3.1, 6) And later, Saul's incomplete obedience to the Word of God resulted in Haman, an Amalekite, mounting a global persecution in an attempt to exterminate the Jews from existence.
  - ✓ If Saul would have obeyed God, Haman would never have existed.

### **The Moral of the Story: Obey God completely and without hesitation, even if you don't understand why.**

- Because if you don't...
  - ✓ ...you'll not only cause immediate problems for yourself (like Saul losing his kingdom!),
  - ✓ ...but you'll also sow seeds that will bear some very far reaching and destructive fruit in your life and in the lives of those that live around you.
- Obey now... it's the only way to remove Haman from the throne and allow Mordecai to rule and lead.
- Obey now... it's the way to avoid bigger problems later.

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. [Prov 3.5-6]*