

# HAMAN'S POWER & PROVISION

## Esther 3.10-11: Ahasuerus gives Haman both power and provision for his plan...

**Theme:** Let not sin reign in your kingdom! Don't give Haman your ring... Don't give Haman anything!

### Who runs your life?

- I think most of us might say, “My boss!” or “My job!” But, try think about outside of work...
- Who runs your free time? Who decides what hobbies you do? Who says what “projects” you work on when you're home in the evenings, mornings, and weekends?
- And, with that question (*Who runs your life?*), let me ask you another: Have you ever noticed the difference between doing something because you “have to” and doing something because you “want to”?
  - ✓ In other words: Have you noticed the difference (in attitude, in results, etc.) when you do something because it's your *passion* and when you have to do something because it's your *obligation*?
  - ✓ I'm going to come back to this question later as we talk about Ahasuerus giving Haman power and provision to do what he (Haman) wants.

### Review: (Est 3.1-15) Haman is placed in charge of Ahasuerus's kingdom.

- (v1-4) We saw how Ahasuerus made Haman Prime Minister and how he ordered everyone to bow down and reverence Haman. Well, Mordecai refused because Haman is an Amalekite, Israel's perpetual enemy.
- (v5-6) That did not set well with Haman, and so he decides to take action: Kill all the Jews.
- (v7-11) But, since Ahasuerus is still the king, Haman has to “sell” his plan to him and get his permission.
  - ✓ (v7) He casts the lot to plan out his year, and the genocide of the Jews is set for the 12<sup>th</sup> month (v13).
  - ✓ (v8-9) With the planning aspect out of the way, Haman proceeds to present his plan to the King. He starts with the truth, moves into a half-truth, and then lays his lie right out on the table.
  - ✓ (v10-11) Today we see the king “take the bait”... like they say: “hook, line, and sinker.”

### (v10-11) King Ahasuerus gives Haman both power and provision to execute his plan.

- (v10) He gives him his ring and then (v11) he gives him the money he needs to get it all done.
- And with this decision by the king, bad things start to happen in his kingdom...

### I. (v10) Haman Receives Power

#### A. King Ahasuerus gives Haman his ring.

1. And although it might not appear like a very big deal, this is one of the key events in Esther.
2. By giving Haman his ring, Ahasuerus has effectively given Haman all the power and authority he needs to do anything he wants.

#### B. The king's ring signifies his authority (his authoritative power).

1. A king would use his ring as a “seal” on laws and edicts in his kingdom. They would drip hot wax onto the written edict and then the king would press his ring into the wax leaving his mark and making the edict (or law) official.
2. The ring, then, was like the king's signature. Whoever had the ring could do whatever he wanted, and he could do it with the authority of the king himself.
3. (Gen 41.40-43) Example: Pharaoh gave Joseph his ring when he made him second in command.

**C. Ahasuerus has, in very little time, given Haman control over almost everything he has.**

1. (Est 3.1) The promoted Haman to a position of prominence in his kingdom: Prime Minister.
2. (Est 3.10) Now he gives Haman the authoritative power to make any decision he would like over any of the day-to-day decisions in the kingdom.
3. (Est 3.12) Haman can now act “in the name of king Ahasuerus” (because he has the ring).

**D. This could likely be the worst decision Ahasuerus has ever made.**

1. He just gave Haman, the Agagite, control over his entire kingdom.
2. And it seems like God shows us the seriousness of the decision (and the consequences it will bring) by giving Haman a new title right after Ahasuerus gives him the ring: *the Jews' enemy*.
3. It's as if God is saying that Haman wasn't the enemy of the Jews before. But, when he gets the ring (when he receives the power and authority to do what he wants), *then* he becomes the Jew's enemy.
4. (Gen 12.1-3) According to God's unconditional promise to His people, this decision will bring serious consequences to the king and his kingdom (not to mention to Haman).

**E. Doctrinal Application: This decision shows us a picture of another *enemy of the Jews*, Antichrist.**

1. (Rev 13.1, 7) Just like Ahasuerus gave Haman power (authoritative power) over all the peoples of his kingdom, so God will give authoritative power to the Antichrist (for a time) over the world during the three-and-half years of the Great Tribulation.
2. (Rev 12.13-17) And when this happens, he (the Antichrist filled with Satan, the dragon) will be the *enemy of the Jews* as he persecutes them and kills them throughout the world.
  - He has the same desire we saw expressed by Haman: (Est 3.6) Exterminate God's people.
3. (Rom 9.27) And even though today there are some 14 million Jews in the world, after this “coming Haman” (Antichrist) is finished with his work, there will only be a remnant that escapes.
4. (Mat 24.22) The persecution will be so bad during the Tribulation, that if God didn't shorten the days of it, there wouldn't be *any* that escaped.
5. Haman receiving the king's ring (power and authority over the entire kingdom) is a doctrinal picture of the Antichrist at mid-Tribulation receiving power over the world.
  - a) This is when he breaks his covenant of peace (Dan 9.27) and becomes the enemy of the Jews.
  - b) (Mat 24.21) And, where Haman fails (he doesn't get to kill the Jews), the coming Antichrist will have great “success.” It will be a time like none other in the history of this world.

**F. Personal Application: Ahasuerus's decision to give Haman his ring is a daily occurrence...**

1. Christians do this every day... they give their “ring of authority” to Haman, the flesh (old man).
2. Look at the wording in Esther 3.10: “...*took* his ring ... *gave* it...” Who did that? Ahasuerus. Did Haman sit on him, twist his arm, and *make* him do it? No. Ahasuerus chose to do it.
3. This decision was made by the king, and only by the king. And it's the same with us...
  - a) When a Christian decides to give power and authority to his flesh so that his flesh can do whatever it wants, no one else has the responsibility for that decision. We did it!
  - b) We don't *have* to do (no one sits on top of us and twists our arm). We *choose* to do it.
  - c) (Rom 6.12a) God commands us: “*Let not sin therefore reign in your...*” kingdom!
    - (1) So if he commands us to do it, then it's obvious we have the ability to do it.
    - (2) Sin (the flesh, the old man, Haman) has no power and authority in our lives that *we don't give to him* in the first place. *We* take our rings and give them to Haman.
    - (3) If you see a believer walking after the flesh (i.e., *a believer not doing what the Bible says*), no one else is responsible: He is!

- d) (Rom 6.12b, 16) And once we decide to give the old man control (once we decide to satisfy his desires), we become his slave—he gains control and runs the kingdom for us.
- (1) We call that carnality: Decisions in your life being made based on the desires of the flesh.
  - (2) And this could take the form of “serious” sins (like adultery or fornication) or it could revolve around “acceptable” sins that are still the desires of the flesh (thoughts, covetousness, where you put your eyes, apathy, etc.).
  - (3) The “seriousness” of the sin isn't what's important. What's important is your “ring.” When you choose to give in to the desires of the flesh, you have become his servant. That's bad.
  - (4) (Rom 6.16) And, at the end of the day, we really only have one decision we can make. We will *always* be servants (slaves). The decision we make is this: **Whom will we serve?** The flesh (Haman) and his desires, or the Spirit (Mordecai) and his desires. That's it.
    - (a) (Est 3.10) Ahasuerus *chooses* to give his ring to Haman and serve him and his desires.
    - (b) (Est 8.2) Then, when he sees the mess he made, he ends up giving that same ring (his symbol of power and authority) to Mordecai and he lets Mordecai run his life.
    - (c) This is what the Book of Esther is all about, and this is why we can see a personal picture of our battle for spirituality: Victory comes when we serve the Holy Spirit.

**G. Review: (v10) Haman gets what he wants! He gets the ring... the power to satisfy his desires!**

## **II. (v11) Haman Receives Provision**

### **A. After Ahasuerus gives Haman his ring, he gives him the provision he needs to carry out his plan.**

1. (v9) Haman gets to keep the 10,000 talents of silver that Haman said he would give to the king.
2. So not only did Ahasuerus give him *permission* to do what he wanted, he also gave him *provision!*
3. Haman now has free reign in the kingdom. He has everything he needs to satisfy his desires.

### **B. This, again, is something we see on a daily basis when Christians provide for their flesh.**

1. They choose to follow those desires (to give in to the wants and coveting of the flesh). And then they take the necessary steps to see that those desires are fulfilled (they provide for them).
2. Do you think there is *anything* good in that? Do you think that *our* desires are in any way good?
  - a) (Jer 17.9) “**Follow your heart**”: Do what *you* want, what *your* heart desires. That's the same thing: Give Haman your ring and then provide him what he needs to do what he wants. How's that going to turn out for you?
  - b) (Gen 6.5, 11-12) Is there anything good in the heart of man? Is there anything good that can come from our choice to follow our own heart's desires (the desires of the old man)?
  - c) (Prov 14.12) Following your heart, your desires, your own plan for your life... it's not going to turn out well. And God even repeats Himself so we get it: Proverbs 16.25.

### **C. Here's our lesson in this: (Rom 13.14) Don't provide *anything* for your flesh!**

1. We shouldn't give our old man (flesh) even the slightest hint of a provision to do what he wants.
2. Remember the question I asked when we started? “**Who runs your life?**” Let's think about that...
  - a) The principle in Romans 13.14 is interesting when we really start thinking about it.
  - b) If we are not to even make a provision for the flesh (let alone follow it and do what it wants, trying to satisfy its desires), then that means we need to be very careful and biblical about the decisions we make... especially when it comes to what we do with our time.
  - c) We need to follow the Spirit, and that means we need to follow the Bible. And that implies a bit of “self-discipline” (*you* have to decide to do it and *you* have to follow through).
    - Now, I don't mean to “beat anyone up” with this, but let's just think this out for a minute.

- d) How different would our lives look if we not only chose to *obey* the Word, but if we actively and intentionally changed our lives and lifestyles to *live* the Word.
- (1) Instead of just “not providing for the flesh” (doing what we have to do), we intentionally and eagerly “provided for the Spirit” (we did that which the Spirit wanted to do).
  - (2) Think about what you do and how you live: Your job, free time, projects, hobbies, etc.
  - (3) Now, think about the difference between doing something because you “have to” and doing something because you “want to.”
  - (4) We are called to obey, yes... But, have you noticed the difference (in attitude, in results, etc.) when you do something because it's your *passion* instead of doing something because it's your *obligation*? There's a big difference!
- e) Think about changing how you view your life: (My challenge to you... just think on this...)
- (1) Go beyond just “doing what you have to because the Bible says you have to.” *Obedience*.
  - (2) Think about zealously, eagerly, and intentionally changing whatever you can in every area of your life to live out what the Bible is all about.
  - (3) Change your attitude toward following God. Change your perspective. For example...
    - (a) Is there a “hobby” you could incorporate into your life that would be biblical.
      - i) I keep wanting to make street preaching my hobby—my “life's project”: How many places could we go to and preach? For me, that would be great!
      - ii) I also want to explain and cross reference every verse in my Bible, making my own “study Bible.”
      - iii) I'd like to build a web site full of materials and teaching and training that could be a springboard to open doors to work with other churches and help other pastors.
    - (b) (John 8.29) What would our lives look like if we not only obeyed the Bible because we “have to,” but if we eagerly and zealously (intentionally, aggressively) chose to do only what pleased to Father (to live the Word and not just “add” it to “our” lives that we already have planned out).
3. Don't make provision for the flesh—don't give Haman what he needs to fulfill his desires (do the opposite!).

**Ahasuerus gives Haman power and provision to satisfy his desire to kill God's people.**

- He took off his ring and gave it to Haman (his choice, his responsibility): He gave him power and authority to do whatever he wanted in the whole kingdom.
- Then he gave Haman the provision he needed to carry out his plans.

**Christians do the same thing each and every day:**

- They choose to give in to the desires of the flesh: They give the flesh power to lead them in what to do in their “kingdoms” (their lives).
- And then they provide whatever is needed for the flesh to satisfy his desires (they go places they shouldn't, they buy things they ought not, they give him their time to fritter away on what the flesh wants to do... they make provision for the flesh).

**What would it be like to be different... *really* different?**

- What would it be like to actively and eagerly (“proactively,” systematically, intentionally, fanatically) live out what the Word says—to not just “obey” it, but to love it and live it?
- Would we be branded as fanatics and wackos? Yep. Is that bad...?
- Think about what the Bible says: Romans 13.14... Romans 6.12... Romans 6.16...
- And then think about the day you die... the day you meet your Lord who died for you and saved you. Then ask yourself: *How do I want to live?*