

Victory—Esther 3-4 By Pastor Robby Bradford

(Esther 3:1-2) Some time later **King Xerxes promoted Haman** son of Hammedatha the Agagite over all the other nobles, making him the most powerful official in the empire. All the king's officials would bow down before Haman to show him respect whenever he passed by, for so the king had commanded. But **Mordecai refused** to bow down or show him respect.

√ **Life is painful and unfair because of sin.**

(Esther 3:5-6) When Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow down or show him respect, he was filled with rage. He had learned of Mordecai's nationality, so he decided it was not enough to lay hands on Mordecai alone. Instead, he looked for a way to destroy all the Jews throughout the entire empire of Xerxes.

√ **Revenge deforms and twists us in ways we can't predict.**

(Esther 3:7-9) So in the month of April, during the twelfth year of King Xerxes' reign, lots were cast in Haman's presence (the lots were called **purim**) to determine the best day and month to take action. And the day selected was March 7, nearly a year later. Then Haman approached King Xerxes and said, "There is a certain race of people scattered through all the provinces of your empire who keep themselves separate from everyone else. Their laws are different from those of any other people, and they refuse to obey the laws of the king. So it is not in the king's interest to let them live. If it please the king, issue a decree that they be destroyed, and **I will give 10,000 large sacks of silver** to the government administrators to be deposited in the royal treasury."

√ **The enemy always has a plan.**

(Esther 3:13-15) Dispatches were sent by swift messengers into all the provinces of the empire, giving the order that **all Jews—young and old, including women and children—must be killed, slaughtered, and annihilated on a single day**. This was scheduled to happen on March 7 of the next year. **The property of the Jews would be given to those who killed them**. A copy of this decree was to be issued as law in every province and proclaimed to all peoples, so that they would be ready to do their duty on the appointed day. At the king's command, the decree went out by swift messengers, and it was also proclaimed in the fortress of Susa. Then the king and Haman **sat down to drink**, but the city of **Susa fell into confusion**.

√ **Sin will cause you to be callous to the suffering and chaos around you.**

(Esther 4:4-6) When Queen Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was deeply distressed. She sent clothing to him to replace the burlap, but he refused it. Then Esther sent for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been appointed as her attendant. **She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was troubling him and why he was in mourning**.

√ **Contentment and isolation can make you oblivious to the suffering around you.**

(Esther 4:15-16) Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹ “Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. **If I must die, I must die.**”

√ **God only needs one willing, obedient servant.**

BOTTOM LINE: What is God asking you to do?