

A Better Lieutenant: Mordecai vs. Haman

Mordecai Saves the King's Life (2:19-23)

- Sat at the king's gate: Mordecai appears to have had a government job
- Mordecai is cousin and adoptive father of Esther
- Mordecai discovers plot to assassinate the king by 2 of his eunuchs
 - Aside: who can blame them for wanting to kill the guy who castrated them?
- 2 eunuchs are hung on the gallows
 - Reminder: gallows are impaling poles, not western movie style gallows
- No reward is given to Mordecai for saving king's life
- Event is recorded in the king's personal history book

Haman Gets Promoted... and a Big Head (3:1-2)

- Finally we meet our villain, Haman
- Xerxes promotes him, Haman, to #2 – the lieutenant – in the kingdom
- Note: Mordecai saves the king's life, but Haman gets the promotion!
- Everyone bows and pays homage to Haman *because* king had so commanded
 - Aside: Wonder if everyone knew Haman was not worthy of receiving homage as it seems unlikely that it normally required a command to honor the #2

Mordecai Refuses to Bow... and Haman Gets Angry (3:2-6)

- Everyone bows to Haman... except Mordecai that is
 - Mordecai has been a faithful servant of the empire, but this is too much
 - Better late than never for him to grow some convictions, right?
 - But isn't this an odd place for Mordecai to draw a line in the sand?
 - Aside: Isn't this true of us? We go along just fine, then draw our line in the sand on seemingly minor issues?
- Haman was furious at Mordecai for his insubordination
- Escalate quickly: instead of wanting to get back at Mordecai, he escalates the situation out of control and threatens not only Mordecai, but all Jews everywhere

A Better Lieutenant, A Better Savior

- Haman, the Lieutenant, seeks his own honor
 - Jesus forsakes the position rightfully his to become a man and to give himself for undeserving people (see Phil 2:6-11)
- Mordecai saves the king's life
 - The gospel is that Jesus, the great King, gave his life for the people