

Haman's Wicked Plan (Esther 3:6-15)

Recap

- Haman appointed 2nd in command
- Haman requires everyone to bow down and honor him
- Everyone does... except for Mordecai
- Haman plots plan to punish not just Mordecai, but all of Mordecai's people
- Haman's people (Agagites) and Mordecai's people (Jews) have been feuding for well over a thousand years

Haman's Tactics (3:7-9)

- Tactics Haman employs to manipulate king are insightful for us because they give us a picture of how evil works
- Tactic 1: Cast lots to get fate on your side (3:7)
- Tactic 2: Be vague and non-specific (3:8)
- Tactic 3: Appeal to ego and pride (3:8)
- Tactic 4: Appeal to the pocket and tempt with money/reward (3:9)
- Tactic 5: Bury the real request (3:9)
- *For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me (Rom 7:11).*

Xerxes Signs Off (3:10-11)

- Xerxes tells Haman to do whatever he wants
- Xerxes can't be bothered by details, but he can be bothered to make sure that those who would not obey him or not be loyal to him be punished

The Edict (3:12-14)

- Edict sent throughout the kingdom declaring open season on the Jews – the kill *and* to plunder them
- Edict not in effect until 13th day of the 12th month (almost a year away)

Two Outcomes in Susa (3:15)

- City thrown into confusion
- Xerxes and Haman sit down for a drink

A Better King (Matthew 23:37-39; Luke 19:41-44)

- Late in ministry of Jesus – nearing his crucifixion
- Jesus is recorded as weeping over the city lost in its sin
- Xerxes doesn't care – Jesus weeps for his people
- Xerxes sentences an entire people to die – Jesus is sentenced to die for an entire people!