



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

ESTHER 3:2-3, 5-6a; 4:7-16

ESTHER'S BOLD FAITH— July 14, 2024

INTRODUCTION / SYNOPSIS:

Chapter 3 ¹One of the chief servants of King Ahasuerus was Haman. He was a proud man who demanded obedience and worship from those under him. However, Mordecai refused to bow to Haman. This infuriated Haman. Knowing that Mordecai was a Jew, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews in the kingdom. He convinced the king to pass a law (a decree) for genocide of the Jewish race. Neither Haman nor the king suspected that the new law would affect Queen Esther.

As early as August 1920, Hitler compared the Jews to germs. He stated that diseases cannot be controlled unless you destroy their causes. He hated the Jews and tried to extinguish the whole race. Now, we've just found out about the 1921 Tulsa Massacre of a white mob deliberately trying to extinguish the black race of people and so forth, it still continues and we are enclosed with all types of enemies.

3:1 After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him. After these things, goes back to Chapter 2:21-23 where two men tried to assassinate the king and it was found out by Mordecai. The king was alerted by Queen Esther, crediting Mordecai with the information. The men were hung on a tree. This was written in the book. But we see who the king later promotes, making him the highest official in the government.

LESSON:

I. ESTHER 3:2-3

3:2 And all the king's servants, that were with him in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence. Mordecai, Esther's uncle and adopted father knew about the command: *"But he wouldn't bow down, nor did he reverence him."* He just refused. Matters got worse. Haman got furious and sought to destroy all, and I do mean all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahaserus. Well that would include Esther because she's a Jew, but no one knew this, not even the king.

- Okay! You've been doing wonderful on that job and the devil rears his ugly head up and suspend you, and tell you to go home.
- You've finally arrived to where God elevates you to be over a department in the church or even one of the ministers at the church and you didn't hold your tongue when you told off one of the members or even the preacher, and they say you can't sit on the podium with the other preachers for a period of time;
- Or you got that marvelous husband and he doesn't treat you like the queen you are.

Well, it takes wisdom along with courage to confront in the right way. To make a long story short,

- You're not on that job to make you content.
- You're not at that church because it's the best church ever.
- You're not in that person's life to satisfy you.
- You're not going the extra mile because it feels good! There is a greater purpose, a greater destiny for such a time as this!

¹ <https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/esther-bible-story-summary/>
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3:3 Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai. Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?—Well the king's servants wanted to know why Mordecai was being so disrespectful to the king's commandment.

3:4 Now it came to pass, when they spake dally unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew. The king's servants continued to speak to Mordecai about his transgression daily, but he said not a word. So, they told Haman to see if Mordecai's behavior would stand or be tolerated, for he told them he was a Jew.

BACK TO THE LESSON: ESTHER 3:5-6a

3:5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath. Well it seems that Haman was filled with rage after seeing Mordecai would not bow or show reverence when Haman passed by him.

3:6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone: for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all of the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai. Pride goeth before a fall. This rage had so engulfed Haman that what he wanted to do to Mordecai was not even sufficient gratification. So, why not destroy the whole human race of Mordecai's people—the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus. Well we see what kind of demonic mind Haman had.

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 4 ²Mordecai and the Jews began to mourn and fast. They knew their time was limited. Mordecai mourned in sackcloth and ashes crying with a loud and bitter cry at the entrance of the palace gate. And when the people of every district heard of the law, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing laying in sackcloth and ashes. The maids and male servants grieved, and Esther sent clothing to Mordecai, but he refused to accept the clothing Queen Esther had sent. However, she had apparently been shielded from the news of the coming destruction. She called Hatach, the one (man servant) appointed to look after the queen. She then ordered him to go to Mordecai to find out what was happening.

4:6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate. Hatach went at the request of the queen to where Mordecai was, in front of the king's gate, the street of the city to find out what was the trouble.

II. ESTHER 4:7-12

4:7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. Mordecai had learned of a deadly threat concerning the Jews, so he outlined it all to Hatach (Esther's servant). Come to find out Haman promised to pay money into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Haman had had it out for Mordecai when Mordecai didn't give him special honor at the king's gate when he came in and out at the king's command. So, Haman became very angry with Mordecai; so angry that he wanted to destroy all the Jews. Haman was a descendant of King Agag (the Amalekites), who was an enemy of the Jews. The Amalekites were the enemies of King Saul, so, Haman hated the Jews which makes him a racist in our day and time. We are seeing racial hatred even in this time, and it

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has always been sinful and should never be condoned in any form. You see, Esther's Jewish name was "*Hadassah*", but Esther had not told anyone her nationality because Mordecai had told her not to.

4:8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people. Mordecai gave Hatach a written copy of the decree that had begun in Shushan to destroy the Jews; wash them all out. He was to show this to Queen Esther to affirm it to her, charging her to go to the king to beg for his mercy, and plead and intercede for the lives of the Jewish people which are her people. Mordecai realized that the only hope for the Jewish people was for Esther to intercede on their behalf, and thus gain the favor of the king in protecting the Jews.

4:9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai. Hatach returned to Esther and gave her the account of what Mordecai had said.

4:10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;— This time Esther gives Hatach a commandment to give to Mordecai.

4:11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days. Esther sends back this answer to Mordecai through Hatach for this was a major concern and problem of what Mordecai wanted her to do, since the king resided in the inner court. It was unlawful to approach him, for, *"It is common knowledge among all the king's servants and the people of every part of the kingdom that whoever enters the king's court who is not called or invited, there is one law, one penalty that would cause death, execution for that person, unless the king holds out the golden scepter towards him for that person to live. And I the queen has not been called in a month to come unto the king, so it would be unlikely that he would be desirous to see me now."* Aren't we glad that we have a King that's approachable? This seemed unavoidable as Esther wrestled with this personal responsibility upon her shoulders.

4:12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words. So Hatach gave Mordecai Esther's message.

III. ESTHER 4:13-16

4:13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. The reply from Mordecai was heart-wrenching because Esther would not even escape this ordeal just because she's in the king's house; the king's palace when all the other Jews are being killed. He's letting her know that although she was the queen and shared some of the king's power and wealth, her position did not mean that she did not need God's protection and wisdom. None of us are secure in our own strength in this political system. It's foolish to believe that wealth or position can make us resistant to danger.

4:14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?— Have you been somewhere and you wanted to say something about the wrong but couldn't; and you needed to do

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something but wouldn't? The courage just wasn't there; didn't even have the nerve? When you really think about it, the size of your enemy is very small against the Greatness of God! Let me say that again, the size of your enemy is very small against the Greatness of God! You're focusing too much on the enemy. That's what the Israelites did. They didn't see the giant grapes; they saw the giant people and themselves as grasshoppers. Two things Mordecai tells Esther (that sticks with me) "Do you think you will escape there in the palace, when all other Jews are killed?" (4:13); "and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this" (4:14). God wants to use us in those delicate situations whether talking to family where changes are to be made, confronting a friend about a delicate subject, facing a hostile audience, dreading difficult subjects or even putting them off. They only come around again. And that time if you shun it off, God knows what to do. It passes to someone else, and we forfeit an opportune time, and an important beautiful lesson God wanted us to learn (for you had already told God to use you). You said: *"I'm yours, I'll obey."* So, Mordecai kept pushing, he sends word back to Esther, telling her that *"if she hold her peace; keep quiet at a time like this, God will deliver the Jews from some other source, but she and her relative will die. So, who can say that you are brought into the kingdom for just such a time as this?"* In ancient manuscripts, God is not specifically mentioned in the Book of Esther, but we know He's there among them!

4:15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,— Esther returns this answer to Mordecai.

4:16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. Esther knew how to wait—she's been through the process of beauty treatments. It paid off! She knew how to stay the course—not play her hand too soon. God placed the right coaches in her life. Although she was an orphan,

- God placed her uncle Mordecai who guided her in godly teaching in her young life.
- Her second coach was the eunuch that found favor in her.

You see when you really make up your mind to do something, it's made up and you'll stick to it. She trusted both! And Esther made up her mind after hearing the words: *"Do you think you will escape there in the palace, when all other Jews are killed?" (4:13).* Esther knew exactly what to do.

- Maybe she now understood that God was in control of all the events.
- Maybe she now understood why God had placed her in this position and made her queen.

She said *"go and gather all the Jews that are present in Shushan where the decree was given; fast with her meaning don't eat nor drink for 3 days and 3 nights, for she and her maidens will do the same. Afterwards, she will go before the king, for it was not according to the law, but if she perish, then she will perish."* She's laying it all on the line for her people. There is no mention of God, but we know Him to be the God of the Jews. She was not fasting and praying to an idol god. She was not putting her confidence in a pagan God, for her uncle Mordecai had taught her better; had taught her who they are to serve; who they were not to bow down to. As the song goes: *"I'm gonna lay down my burdens..."* She got everyone involved, for this was not just her responsibility to wrestle with alone. By calling a fast in action, Esther was asking the Jews to pray for God's help on her dangerous mission for she was the one who was asking to go before the king. She needed mutual support at a difficult time, and she laid her life on the line— **if I perish, I perish!**

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NOT APART OF THE LESSON: VERSE 17

4:17 So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther had commanded him. Mordecai went his way, leaving the king's palace gate, and did as Esther had commanded of him.

SUMMARY:

All the king's servants, that were with him in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had commanded this concerning him, but Mordecai bowed, did not bow, nor reverence him. Well it seems that Haman was filled with rage after seeing Mordecai would not bow or show reverence when Haman passed by him, that he wanted to lay hands on Mordecai (**3:2-3, 5-6a**).

Mordecai had learned of a deadly threat concerning the Jews, so he told Hatach all that had happened, for Haman promised to pay money into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. So, Mordecai gave Hatach a written copy of the decree, for it had been issued in Shushan to destroy the Jews. He was to show this to Queen Esther to affirm it to her, charging her to go to the king and beg for mercy and plead and intercede for the lives of the Jewish people which are her people. Mordecai realized that the only hope for the Jewish people was for Esther to intercede on their behalf, and thus gain the favor of the king in protecting the Jews. Hatach returned to Esther and gave her the account of what Mordecai had said. Esther then gives Hatach a commandment to give to Mordecai, for ³Mordecai asked that Esther go into the presence of the king to plead mercy for the Hebrew nation. Esther told him that she could not speak with the king without an appointment. An attempt to do so could result in death. And the king had not called Esther into his presence in the previous month (**4:7-12**).

Mordecai said that Esther would not escape from the death sentence even though she was queen. He proposed that Esther may have been chosen as queen for such a time as this to be a champion for her people. With great fear and resolve, Esther determined to approach the king. But first she asked that her people pray and fast for her over the following three days and three nights. Knowing the seriousness of requesting an audience with the king without an invitation she said, "**If I perish, I perish**" (**4:13-16**).

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