

## The FACE of EVIL ~ Esther 3:1-15

→ Scripture Reading - Eph. 2:14-16, Gal. 3:26-27

### INTRODUCTION

**Exodus 17:15-16** (NIV) Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. <sup>16</sup> He said, For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD. The LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation.

**Deuteronomy 25:19** (NLT) ...when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your enemies in the land he is giving you as a special possession, you must DESTROY the Amalekites and erase their memory from under heaven. Never forget this.

**Gen. 12:3** (NIV) I will bless those who bless you, and whoever CURSES you I will curse...

### Israel's Ancient ENEMY Promoted ~ Esther 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup> After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor HIGHER than that of all the other nobles. <sup>2</sup> All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor. <sup>3</sup> Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?" <sup>4</sup> Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply. Therefore they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behavior would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew. <sup>5</sup> When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was ENRAGED. <sup>6</sup> Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy ALL Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the WHOLE kingdom of Xerxes.

### IMPLICATION

#### → Nothing Good comes from Bitterness and Hatred

**Ephesians 2:14-16** (NLT) For Christ Himself has brought peace to us. He UNITED Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in HIS own body on the cross, He BROKE down the wall of HOSTILITY that separated us.

<sup>15</sup> He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. HE made PEACE between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself ONE new people from the two groups.

<sup>16</sup> Together as ONE BODY, Christ RECONCILED both groups to God by means of His DEATH on the CROSS, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

**Ephesians 4:31-32** (NIV) Get rid of ALL bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be KIND and compassionate to one another, FORGIVING each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

### Plan to Exterminate ALL Jewish People ~ Esther 3:7-11

<sup>7</sup> In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, they cast the *pur* (that is, the lot) in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar. <sup>8</sup> Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in ALL the provinces of your kingdom whose customs are different from those of all other people and who do not OBEY the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them.

#### Serious DANGER to the Kingdom...

- a certain people ALL THROUGH the kingdom
- customs are DIFFERENT
- do NOT OBEY the Kings Laws

<sup>9</sup> If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to DESTROY them, and I will put ten thousand talents of silver into the royal treasury for the men who carry out this business. <sup>10</sup> So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the ENEMY of the Jews. <sup>11</sup> "Keep the money," the king said to Haman, "and do with the people as you please."

## IMPLICATION

### → God is Sovereign over ALL the DETAILS

<sup>7</sup>...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...(NLT)

**Proverbs 16:33** (NIV) The LOT is cast into the lap, but its **every DECISION** is from the LORD.

**Psalm 56:3-4** (NIV) When I am afraid, I will **TRUST in YOU**. <sup>4</sup> In God, whose word I praise, **in God I trust**; I will NOT be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?

### → God HATED what Haman was Doing

**Proverbs 6:16-19** (HCS) The LORD HATES six things; in fact, seven are DETESTABLE to Him: <sup>17</sup> arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet eager to run to evil, <sup>19</sup> a lying witness who gives false testimony, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers.

**Psalm 139:23-24** (NLT) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup> Point out anything in me that offends YOU, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

## Susa thrown in CONFUSION ~ Esther 3:12-15

<sup>12</sup> Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders to the king's satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the NAME of King Xerxes himself and SEALED with his own ring. <sup>13</sup> Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the ORDER to destroy, kill and annihilate ALL the Jews - young and old, women and little children - on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. <sup>14</sup> A copy of the text of the edict was to be ISSUED as LAW in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so they would be ready for that day. <sup>15</sup> Spurred on by the king's command, the couriers went out, and the edict was issued in the CITADEL of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to DRINK, but the city of Susa was BEWILDERED.

## TAKE AWAY ??

**Galatians 3:26-28** (NIV) You are ALL sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither JEW nor GREEK, SLAVE nor FREE, MALE nor FEMALE, for you are ALL ONE IN Christ Jesus.

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