



Mordecai Promoted | vv 1-2

- Verse 1:
 - Here we see that the king himself was not antisemitic. Nobody knows what would have happened had the king known this information in advance, whether he would have responded well and the proposed ethnic cleansing never happened, or whether it would have caused Esther to have never been chosen and the ethnic cleansing carried out.
 - A few lessons on leadership.
 - Just because a person is king doesn't mean he knows what is happening in his kingdom.
 - The actions of the king may be based on false information, but because the king is responsible for those actions, it is incumbent upon him to investigate the facts for himself.
 - The best king is not someone who knows everything, but someone who knows the right questions to ask.
 - Every king will make a bad decision from time to time. The final judgment should be made based on how he changes bad decisions.
 - **The house of Haman** –
 - That is, all the wealth and possessions of Haman became property of Esther. No doubt this was a large estate.
 - Since this book shows God's providential hand over the Jews when they are out of fellowship with Him, it is worthwhile to note that the Jewish people have consistently become wealthy at each of the calamities that have come their way.
 - For example: Zechariah 14:1 is a verse of sadness and loss, but the Messiah returns and reigns beginning in v. 4, giving the land to the Jews. Ps. 37:9-11 shows this same protection for the Jews.
- Verse 2 –
 - The ring is the sign of imperial authority (see 3:10).
 - Because Esther had been given the house of Haman, she now has authority to **set Mordecai over the house**. In this way, Mordecai's story is similar with Joseph and Moses.

A New Decree | vv 3-11

- Verse 3 –
 - Esther is once again putting her life at risk - see v. 4 and compare to 4:11.
 - **Mischief** - Note the other uses of this Hebrew word in the book of Esther. See 7:6, 7; 8:3, 6; 9:2, 25.
 - **the Agagite** - This identification is given multiple times in the book (see 3:1) and must be considered as important.

- Verse 5 – **reverse the letters** - That is, put out one decree that reverses the previous decree (both decrees being written, in Hebrew).
- Verse 6 – **evil**- Here the actions of Haman are called by its more spiritual term: evil.
- Verse 8 – Reversing the irreversible - Here the King may be saying, "I cannot reverse what has been done, but we can counteract" or he may simply be saying, "what we are about to do will have the full authority of the King."
- Verse 9 - This is the longest verse in the Bible. Though the verse numbering is not inspired, one wonders if this is not providential, that the longest verse speaks of the ultimate coming day of salvation for the Jews.
- Verse 10 - Compare 3:13, 15 - Hamaan's decree went out by couriers on foot.
- Verse 11 –
 - For every "unbreakable rule" there is a potential counterbalance which, in effect, breaks the rule. i.e.: *where there is a will, there is a way.*
 - In like manner, God's unbreakable rule that "the wages of sin is death" was counterbalanced with a second decree, that the blood of Jesus would be the propitiation for the sins of all the world (2 John 2:2).

The People's Response | vv. 12-16

- Verse 12 – Adar 13: This was the day in which the previous decree allowed for the destruction of the Jews (3:13)
- Verse 13 – **That the Jews should be ready** - The ability of self-defense should always be taken as sacred and should always be fully protected by governments.
- Verse 15 – **the city of Shusan** - Compare to 3:15.
- Verse 17 - What was meant to destroy the Jews turned to a recruitment tool for Jewish conversions.