

HAMAN FALLS INTO HIS OWN TRAP

[BIBLE TEXT](#) : [Esther 3:1-15](#); [4:1-17](#); [5:1-14](#); [6:1-14](#); [7:1-6](#), 9, 10.

LESSON 430 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).

[BIBLE TEXT in King James Version](#)

Esther 3:1-15

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.

² And all the king's servants, that *were* 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.

³ Then the king's servants, which *were* in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?

⁴ Now it came to pass, when they spake daily 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.

⁵ And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.

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 the Jews that *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, *even* the people of Mordecai.

⁷ In the first month, that *is*, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that *is*, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, *to* the twelfth *month*, that *is*, the month Adar.

⁸ And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws *are* diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it *is* not for the king's profit to suffer them.

⁹ If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring *it* into the king's treasuries.

¹⁰ And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.

¹¹ And the king said unto Haman, The silver *is* given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.

¹² Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that *were* over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and *to* every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was

[BIBLE REFERENCES:](#)

[NOTES:](#)

Prime Minister

Today we shall learn what happened to a man with a very bad temper. This man thought very well of himself, and it made him angry if anyone else did not think as much of him as he thought of himself.

Haman, for so his name was, had been given a high position in the court of the Persian empire, and the king had commanded that all the servants were to bow down and reverence Haman. The king, Ahasuerus, reigned over 127 provinces from the border of India all the way to Africa. Haman was ruler next to the king. He lived in the capital city of Shushan and often visited the palace in connection with his duties as prime minister.

All the king's servants bowed before Haman as he went in and out of the gate. Well, not quite all. There was one, a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai. He had been taken from Jerusalem to Babylon when Nebuchadnezzar was the world ruler. Now that Ahasuerus was king, Mordecai had been brought to Shushan the palace. Daily, as Haman went in and out of the palace gate, all except Mordecai bowed and honoured Haman.

Mordecai had no doubt heard the Law of God daily in his homeland, and he remembered the commandments, which said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. . . . Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them" (Exodus 20:3, 5). He honoured God and did not bow.

Hatred vs. a Quiet Heart

Oh, how that angered Haman! He became full of wrath. He hated Mordecai, and all his waking hours he was thinking, How can I kill Mordecai? Haman's thoughts became bitter indeed. In his heart he said, I will kill all the Jews, and he planned it that way.

That is the way the devil feels about every person who serves God. The devil wants to get rid of every one. But the Christian has a sure weapon. The Bible says: "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4: 7). The devil is a coward, and when a Christian takes a good firm stand for what he knows is right, the devil goes away defeated.

It is true we all see wrong things in the lives of those around about us from time to time, but as Christians we must learn to commit all such things to the Lord so the devil will not be able to take away the rest and quietness we have in our soul.

Revenge Planned

Haman made special efforts to please the king and win his good will so he would grant whatever Haman asked of him. In the meantime Haman's friends decided upon a certain lucky day -- as they believed -- when Haman should mention to the king that there were a certain people in his kingdom who would not obey the king's laws but followed laws of their own. And it would be better if they were destroyed and cleared out of the Persian empire.

The king immediately gave his consent and orders were sent to the rulers of all the provinces of the Persian empire to destroy,

it written, and sealed with the king's ring.

¹³ And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, *even* upon the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and *to take* the spoil of them for a prey.

¹⁴ The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day.

¹⁵ The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.

Esther 4:1-17

¹ When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;

² And came even before the king's gate: for none *might* enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

³ And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, *there was* great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

⁴ So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told *it* her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received *it* not.

⁵ Then called Esther for Hatach, *one* of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it *was*, and why it *was*.

⁶ So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which *was* before the king's gate.

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.

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.

⁹ And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

¹⁰ Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;

¹¹ All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, 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.

to kill, and to cause to perish all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, on a certain day, and their homes and riches were to be taken over by the Persians.

Sorrow

Wherever the king's decree was read there was great mourning. It was read in Shushan the palace, too, and Mordecai rent his clothes and put on sackcloth and covered his head with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry.

When Queen Esther sent to inquire of her cousin Mordecai the reason for this great mourning, Mordecai sent her a copy of the decree and told her she should go to the king to ask for mercy for her people, the Jews.

Love and Fear

Esther was afraid to go to the king. The king had not called for her for thirty days and she did not know if he cared for her any more. If he did not hold out the golden sceptre to her, she would be put to death. Mordecai sent again to Esther, saying, "Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. 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?"

To everyone comes the opportunity for doing God's will. Opportunity is the door, which opens out into everything that is good in life. If it is kept closed, our own life is wasted, and the blessing we could be to others never comes to enrich their lives nor ours.

Prayer and Confidence

First she asked that Mordecai and the Jews who were with him in Shushan should fast and pray for three days and nights, and she and her maids would also fast and pray. After those three days of prayer Esther must have felt confident that God's will would be done whether she lived or died. As she dressed in her royal apparel to go in before the king as he sat upon his throne, her heart must have beaten fast with the hope that he would hold out the golden sceptre, and with the determination that she would die bravely if, in anger, the king condemned her to death.

Queen Esther had hope that the thousands of captive Jews would be released from the sentence of death, and she was willing to give herself that they might live.

Life for Death

There is always great mourning, or sadness, when sin and wickedness are all around. But, oh, we should do more than feel bad about it! We should go before God, the great King and Ruler of all the earth, and pray He will spare sinners and send His Holy Spirit to talk with them about their sins, about Jesus' death upon the Cross for them, and about the judgment that will come upon them if they do not repent.

We should be willing, as Esther was, to give our very lives that other people may be saved. One of our own ministers from our International Headquarters at Portland, Oregon in the United States of America told about the time he felt called to go to Africa to spread the Gospel there. It would have meant leaving his mother and father, his little daughter, his loved ones and friends in America. But he was willing to do it. Perhaps you have read about the missionary Livingston who left his home in England to come to Africa to tell our people about salvation. He won many souls for Jesus and at last laid down his life in Africa.

You may not be called to go to faraway places, but if God puts it upon your heart to speak to a friend or playmate about

¹² And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

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.

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?

¹⁵ Then Esther bade *them* return Mordecai *this answer*,

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.

¹⁷ So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

Esther 5:1-14

¹ Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on *her* royal *apparel*, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.

² And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, *that* she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that *was* in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

³ Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what *is* thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

⁴ And Esther answered, If *it seem* good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.

⁵ Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

⁶ And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What *is* thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what *is* thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.

⁷ Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request *is*,

⁸ If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.

⁹ Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.

¹⁰ Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.

¹¹ And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and

salvation, to give a church paper, or an invitation to Sunday School, you should not hesitate for fear some will make fun of you or turn you down. Some will not respond to the invitation, it is true. But someone may; and if you win just one person for Jesus, that will be worth all your efforts.

Hatred a Burden

Prayer was answered and the king's heart was moved to receive Esther. But all the while Haman carried in his heart a hatred for Mordecai; so with the encouragement of his friends, he had a big gallows made on which to hang Mordecai. If anyone carries a grudge in his heart, he will find someone who will encourage him to keep that grudge until he will say or do something bitter or hateful.

A grudge is a burden (it weighs a person down) that God does not want anyone to carry. He knows it will finally weigh a person down to hell if he does not repent and get rid of it. So God commands His people to forgive. Every Christian has to forgive, no matter what evil is done against him. He has to forgive or God will not forgive him (**Matthew 18:23** ²³ Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. **Matthew 18:35** ³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.). God is the One who punishes, but it is the duty of a Christian to love his fellow men and serve the Lord with a glad heart (**Romans 12:19** ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.).

Sowing and Reaping

So Esther's request for the salvation of her people was granted, but Haman himself was hanged on the gallows he had made for Mordecai. Rather than the Jews being killed and their homes and riches being taken over by Haman and his friends, as they had hoped, Haman was killed and his property was given to the Jews.

If you give your time and effort that others might be saved, you will reap happiness here; and if you are faithful, a reward will await you in Heaven. If you wish evil for others, that very same thing may come upon you. If you carry a grudge you will reap the sinner's condemnation here; and if you do not repent, the damnation of hell will be your portion hereafter.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

QUESTIONS

1. What was the name of Ahasuerus' kingdom?
2. Who was his prime minister?
3. Why did Haman become so very angry with Mordecai?
4. What did Haman decide to do to Mordecai and all the Jews in the kingdom of Ahasuerus?
5. What did Mordecai do when the decree was made that all the Jews should be killed?
6. What did Queen Esther want Mordecai and the Jews who were with him to do before she went to the king to ask for mercy?
7. To whom should we go to ask mercy for the sinners in this world?
8. Why should we be willing to spend time and effort to help people to be saved?

Why must we as Christians forgive people and never, never carry a grudge in our heart?

all *the things* wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.

¹² Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.

¹³ Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.

¹⁴ Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.

Esther 6:1-14

¹ On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

² And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

³ And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.

⁴ And the king said, Who *is* in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

⁵ And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.

⁶ So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?

⁷ And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,

⁸ Let the royal apparel be brought which the king *useth* to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:

⁹ And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man *withal* whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

¹⁰ Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, *and* take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

¹¹ Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

¹² And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered.

¹³ And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every *thing* that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai *be* of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.

¹⁴ And while they *were* yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

Esther 7:1-6

¹ So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

² And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What *is* thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what *is* thy request? and it shall be performed, *even* to the half of the kingdom.

³ Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

⁴ For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

⁵ Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?

⁶ And Esther said, The adversary and enemy *is* this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

Esther 7:9

⁹ And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.

Esther 7:10

¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.