

[Perplexed]

Esther 3:7 – 4:2

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~ Hatred towards the Jews and disdain towards God's people, in general, is a recurring theme in the history of mankind. We have all seen anti-Semitism in our time — and Esther saw it in her time, too. In our last report, we met the villain Haman as he was promoted to Prime Minister under Xerxes; and we saw how Haman became enraged at one little Jewish man, Mordecai, who refused to bow down to his authority. As a result, Haman was so incensed that he made a decree to kill all of the Jews in Babylon who had remained behind after the captivity ended. Remember, Ezra and Nehemiah had returned to Jerusalem at this time to rebuild the temple and the city; and any Jews that had wanted to return with them would have been permitted to. The people we are studying in Esther are totally and completely out of the will of God, they aren't worshipping God, they aren't praying anywhere in this Book of Esther, and they aren't even thinking about God in any way, shape or form.

Our Spiritual Safari is considering one of the most important and prolific problematic matters known to mankind: racism. I hope you read this report very carefully, because the wit and wisdom I am passing along to you in this so-called safari is truth in understanding that, my friends, you aren't going to find elsewhere.

The civil rights movement in America was almost completely Godless. The most charismatic leaders were demanding peace without Christ. Several ministers were involved; but it also fell into the hands of liberals who generally grab any spotlight they can. Politicians then became involved, and it was used for their own corrupt ends. Now, I do agree the original motivation for the civil rights movement in America was generated in the hearts of true believing born again saints; and I concur because only the genuine Christian can rise above the racial barriers to make a distinction amongst others based solely on whether or not that person is a believer or a non-believer. Mankind doesn't make that distinction naturally, my

friends. There are only two types of people in the world, and in the Word of God: those who are saved in Christ Jesus — and those who are not saved as they continue to reject Christ.

Haman is another frightening figure in a long line of men who have attempted to exterminate the nation Israel. Pharaoh, Haman, Herod, Hitler — all tried to wipe the Jews out; presently, modern day Iran hates Israel so bitterly that they would fully attack Israel immediately if given half an opportunity. See, the Word of God has come to the world through Israel — and the Lord Jesus Christ, according to the flesh, came into this world through Israel — so, naturally, Satan is anxious to destroy Israel.

Well, God placed a hedge of protection around Israel way back in their beginning. Presently, of course, Israel does not recognize or acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as their Messiah or as the True and Living God; and that is why they have neither peace nor safety in their land right now. Even so, God has a very definite purpose for them as a nation in the future. When the plan and purpose of God is complete with the church, then the nation Israel will again turn to God to continue His plans for eternity. When God told Israel He would bless those who bless them and curse those who curse them — that meant forever, friends. A simple perusal through the history books confirms this to be true, too.

We also examined a very misused and misunderstood verse of Scripture in our last report. Isaiah chapter fifty-four verse seventeen was not written to me and you today; that is another promise to the nation Israel — and it is a promise that stands today — for them — not you. Well, I think Haman likely knew about all of this, but he didn't believe it — because he didn't care. Now that he is elevated to this remarkable position in the empire, his only interest is that everyone bow down to him. Mordecai isn't bowing, and that infuriates Haman like nothing else possibly could — and he's going to do something about it. Just having one little insubordinate man punished wasn't going to satisfy the voraciously murderous appetite Haman the Agagite possessed, though. He wants all Jews dead. Of course, Haman had no idea Esther was a Jew. The king didn't even know Esther was a Jew; the king doesn't strike me as all that brilliant, personally — but I digress....

### III

***<sup>7</sup> 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.***

***<sup>8</sup> 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.***

***<sup>9</sup> 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.***

~ "Pur" was a lottery style form of gambling that was used to supplement taxes. The Babylonian Empire's tax-base income was not sufficient to satisfy the budget. Further, Xerxes had a huge war bill and those bills had to be paid. See, history always repeats itself again and again like a song played over and over. Well, Haman had charge over all of those things, and he was a very wealthy man, to be sure. All of this puts him in a position to carry out his plan to exterminate the Jews. Haman knew that ten thousand talents of silver was peanuts compared to the wealth that could be exacted from taking everything that the Israelites owned. Actually, I think taking all of the Jews property would have more than satisfied the deficit. So, of course the king didn't need to hear any more; he didn't even ask who these people were that they were talking about – because the king didn't care who they were....

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

***<sup>11</sup> 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.***

***<sup>12</sup> 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 it written, and sealed with the king's ring.***

***<sup>13</sup> 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.***

***<sup>14</sup> 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.***

***<sup>15</sup> 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.***

~ This king was not a good king, friends. He had squandered away the Babylonian wealth in miserably failing war campaigns against Europe. Much of that was the gold which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem when Judah went into captivity. Well, it was all gone now; yet, this government is still functioning as if nothing was wrong. Bankrupting the country didn't worry this king one little bit. It is estimated that more than two million men lost their lives in those wars he waged and lost.

Consider the extreme governmental undertaking required to publish this decree and initiate the process; the Babylonian Empire was expansive and vast, to say the least. There was a polyglot of languages spoken throughout the land, so, the decree would have had to be printed in several different languages. Then, it would require to be copied and distributed. Well, the people saw what was going on, and they knew the king had lost his sanity.

Antisemitism is an infection in the human race that can be traced back to Pharaoh when Egypt held Israel as slaves. Antisemitism is Satanic to the

core. I don't care what you think about the nation Israel or the Jews; if you are a Christian, there cannot be any anti-Semitic ideations in your mind – impossible. Hating other people – ANY people – is not of God. Racism is demonic and perpetuated in hell itself. We can only imagine the affect this decree had on the Jews when they learned of it. They weren't traitors – they hadn't committed any crime. This is what we call government sanctioned strong armed robbery and murder, friends.

Naturally, none of those details bothered the king or Haman; they toasted the effort that would make them even richer and called it “*happy hour*” – then they proceeded to delight in getting inebriated – again. Remember, drunkenness has already led to other nonsensical laws, such as the incident with Vashti. There were some absurd laws in the land at this time. The king and his cronies were always drunk – candidly, they *NEVER* sobered up completely. It's no wonder the empire was in the state of confusion it was in.

King Ahasuerus – a.k.a. Xerxes – was so completely ignorant as a human being that he never even thought about Esther or the man who saved his life from that murderous plot, Mordecai; that they might be the victims of what Haman was doing. Any laws that went forth from the Medes and Persians could never be altered or changed. So, that brings us back to the providence of God; which is the main theme of this Book of Esther. Neither the king, Mordecai, Haman or even Esther, for that matter, are interested in God's will at the time in which we are studying. God's reason for Esther being on the throne is altogether different than Esther's reason for being on the throne; and that's the type of situation in which God will move by His providence. Standeth God in the shadows keeping watch over His own....

#### IV

***<sup>1</sup> 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;***

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

~ Mordecai believed that the decree would be carried out. This is quite a performance he puts on as a result; but no prayer or anything like that – just sackcloth and ashes. Well, the world today has a decree from God, but they don't believe it. God's decree says, "*.... the soul that sinneth it shall surely die!*" All have sinned and come short of holiness, righteousness, and we have all come *FAR* short of the glory of God. We just don't happen to meet His standards, friends. In Adam, all died — and you and I deserve nothing but death — period. Maybe you don't like that fact, but it's an immutable fact of life and from the Word of God. It is appointed unto men once to die and after that the judgment.

Many people erroneously conclude that these truths have been altered or changed somehow. Most view God as a sentimental grandfather sitting in a rocking chair on the front porch of Heaven giving a wink and a nod to the sin going on in His little children's lives as they play in the yard. They think God just saves everybody by His love – which is not only absurd – it's not Biblical. We're saved by grace, and the decree that declares 'the soul that sinneth it shall surely die' has not been changed. We have a lot of people who call themselves Christians, but who are just plain ignorant of the Word of God and what it teaches. The Bible says we're sinners, friends; if you don't think this world is lost in sin then click on over to a news channel and see what's happening right now in your town – sin is rampant.

When you look at the people in Esther's day who are totally out of the will of God – you need to see yourself – because that's you and me. Let's not kid ourselves; if we could see ourselves as God sees us without Christ we would immediately commit suicide. Don't tell me about keeping the law, either; the Bible says, "*.... cursed is everyone who continueth not in all things that are written in the book of the law to do them.*" Don't lie to yourself and say you are prepared to keep the law of God; that's simply not credible. And the soul that sinneth, it shall surely die ~

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