



**Esther 2:19-23**

<sup>19</sup> Now when the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate. <sup>20</sup> Esther had not made known her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him. <sup>21</sup> In those days, as Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. <sup>22</sup> And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai. <sup>23</sup> When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. And it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

**The King's Gate**

Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate...

- This implies the Mordecai had \_\_\_\_\_  
within Ahasuerus' government
- Overhears \_\_\_\_\_
- Mordecai informs \_\_\_\_\_
- Esther informs \_\_\_\_\_
- The conspirators \_\_\_\_\_

Should Mordecai receive a reward?  
What kind of reward?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Esther 3:1-2**

After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and advanced

him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him. <sup>2</sup> And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage.

**Mordecai Refuses to Bow...**

Why do you think Mordecai refused to bow to Haman? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Esther 3:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?" <sup>4</sup> And when they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's words would stand, for he had told them that he was a Jew. <sup>5</sup> And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury. <sup>6</sup> But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

**Conflict at the Gate**

What are some reasons for Haman to escalate his rage from one person to an entire race of people? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Consider how things from the past might have influenced the issues between Mordecai and Haman. What are some lessons we can learn about dealing with our past? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Esther 3:7**

<sup>7</sup> In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur

(that is, they cast lots) before Haman day after day; and they cast it month after month till the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

Haman likely uses “Pur” (casting lots) because of his belief in \_\_\_\_\_

**Esther 3:8-11**

<sup>8</sup>Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king’s laws, so that it is not to the king’s profit to tolerate them. <sup>9</sup>If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king’s business, that they may put it into the king’s treasuries.” <sup>10</sup>So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. <sup>11</sup>And the king said to Haman, “The money is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you.”

**Another Decree...**

*Haman Makes His Case*

- Haman accuses “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”
- Their laws are \_\_\_\_\_
- It isn’t \_\_\_\_\_ to keep these people around
- Make a decree to \_\_\_\_\_
- Haman will \_\_\_\_\_

*The King’s Response*

- Gives \_\_\_\_\_ Authority (Signet Ring)
  - To write a decree in \_\_\_\_\_
  - To manage \_\_\_\_\_ he promised
  - To deal with \_\_\_\_\_

**Esther 3:12-15**

<sup>12</sup>Then the king’s scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded, was written to the king’s satraps and to the governors over all the provinces and to the officials of all the peoples, to every province in its own script and every people in its own language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king’s signet ring. <sup>13</sup>Letters were sent by couriers to all the king’s provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. <sup>14</sup>A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province by proclamation to all the peoples to be ready for that day. <sup>15</sup>The couriers went out hurriedly by order of the king, and the decree was issued in Susa the citadel. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was thrown into confusion.

**The Decree Delivered...**

The Date...

- \_\_\_\_\_ day of the \_\_\_\_\_
- Two days before \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ in the future

The Sentence...

- Destroy, kill, annihilate
- All Jews
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Plunder

The Response...<sup>1</sup>

- The King - \_\_\_\_\_
- Haman - \_\_\_\_\_
- The people of Susa \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Walter Elwell, *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*, Baker Book House, 1995