

⁸Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws *are* different from all *other* people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it *is* not fitting for the king to let them remain. ⁹If it pleases the king, let a *decree* be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring *it* into the king's treasuries." ¹⁰So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. ¹¹And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people *are* given to you, to do with them as seems good to you." ¹²Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a *decree* was written according to all that Haman commanded—to the king's satraps, to the governors who *were* over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring. ¹³And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month, which *is* the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions. ¹⁴A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day. ¹⁵The couriers went out, hastened by the king's command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

1. Haman presents his plan to the king

- a. Haman informs the king that there is a rebellious people in the land that do not obey the king's laws
 - a1. It is odd that the king does not ask who these people are or what laws they refuse to follow
 - a2. The king seems to have trusted Haman implicitly
- b. Absolute trust in anyone, except the Lord, is foolishness
- c. Haman informs the king that these people should not remain in the kingdom
 - a1. Haman proposes wiping out millions of people on his word that they are not fit to live
 - a2. The king does not make any inquiries about why suddenly an entire race should be destroyed
 - b1. He would have heard about any rebellions in the land before this time
 - b2. The king shows astonishing disinterest
- d. Haman proposes to pay for the cost of the project out of his own funds (10,000 talents of silver)
 - a1. 375 tons @ \$30/ounce today or \$360,000,000
 - a2. Haman's wealth may not have been honestly gained to have so much spending capital
- e. Haman's bribe hints at buying influence with king

2. The king's response

- a. The king doesn't seem to even be curious about such a sudden drastic proposal
 - a1. He does not know who these people are
 - a2. He had not been dealing with reports of a rebellious people in the land
 - a3. It does not concern him that taxes will go down
 - a4. He does not know that he is putting his queen in jeopardy, for she is a Jewess
- b. From this point on Haman is referred to as the *enemy of the Jews*
- c. The king states that Haman has the money & people, so he can do what he thinks best to do
 - a1. The Hebrew is difficult here – either the king is saying that *Haman can keep his \$ for he will pay for it* or he is saying *you have provided the \$ so I will give you the people you need* (most likely)
 - a2. Haman sends out a proclamation in all languages with the seal of the king's ring on it, so that the decree appears to come from the king directly
- d. After the decree is sent out, the king & Haman sit down to drink as if everything was business as usual

3. Confusion in the kingdom

- a. The decree sent by Haman orders that all the Jews would be destroyed on the 13th day of Adar
 - a1. Their possession were to be plundered
 - a2. No explanation is given for the reason for this shocking
- b. The people in Shushan & naturally throughout the empire are perplexed, bewildered, & dismayed by the order
 - a1. The Jews were their neighbors & friends
 - a2. There had been no indication of trouble from the Jews or previous animosity by the king to Jews
- c. The people of Persia were used to irrational actions by Xerxes, such as the invasion of Greece, but this was far beyond what they would expect
 - a1. At least invading Greece had to do with expanding Xerxes's empire for his glory
 - a2. Killing law abiding citizens of his own empire made no sense
- d. Satan has desired to wipe out God's chosen people from the time of Abraham (Pharaoh, Babylon, Xerxes, Hitler...), but God has always saved a remnant to finish his plan