

THE GOOD HAND OF OUR GOD IS UPON US

A Study of Ezra & Esther

Big Picture & Class Outline (Chronological Study)

- First Exile Expedition: Temple from Ruins (Ezra 1-6).
 - Back in Persia: Everyone almost Dies (Esther).
 - Second Exile Expedition: A Return to the Law (Ezra 7-10).
- I. **An Assassination Plot is Discovered (Esther 2:21-23)**
- A. The plot formulated by Bigthan and Teresh to assassinate the king is over heard by Mordecai (v21)
 - B. Mordecai informs Esther who in turn informs the king (v22)
 - C. Bigthan and Teresh are hung for their treachery (v23)
- II. **An Agagite's Passion Disclosed (3:1-6)**
- A. Haman's Promotion: He is placed above all other officials - similar to the role of a prime minister (v1)
 - B. Hamans' Provocation: The king commanded all servants in the king's gate to pay homage to Haman (v2a)
 - 1. Mordecai refuses to bow, saying it was simply because he was a Jew (v2b-4)
 - C. Haman's Purpose: Not content with seeking retribution with Mordecai alone, he sets his sights on all Jews. (v5-6)
- III. **An Annihilation Plan is Decreed (Esther 3:7-15)**
- A. The casting of lots: Haman uses the casting of Pur, a form of lots, to determine the date - approximately a year later (13th day of the twelfth moon) (v7)
 - B. The command of the king: Haman informs the king of a "certain people" who are refusing to obey the king's laws (v8)

1. Haman reveals his plan - to destroy the “people” who do not follow the king’s laws - with his own money! (v9)
2. The king approves Haman’s plan and gives him his signet ring and funds the project (v10-11)
3. The edict is spread throughout the land of Persia (v12-14)

C. The confusion in the land (3:15)

1. The edict spreads, and so does confusion
2. The king drinks while the kingdom falls into shock

So What?

- God is sovereign over all things
 - Sovereign over time
 - Everything happens on God’s timetable
 - sovereign over events
 - All things that happen are allowed to happen according to God’s will
 - sovereign over our suffering
 - God allows earthly suffering to bring us heavenly gain