

# Haman, the Enemy of the Jews

Esther 3:7-15

## Why all of this hatred?

Humankind cannot technically be divided into \_\_\_\_\_. There are ethnic groups, and tribal groups, and language groups, and national groups, but not racial groups. And, AiG could prove it, not only biologically, but biblically. The apostle Paul said in **Acts 17:26** that “He [God] has made from **one** \_\_\_\_\_ **every nation of men** to dwell on all the face of the earth” (NKJV). Every human being who has ever lived originates from one bloodline. There are visual and physical differences among the tribes of people, to be sure. However, they and we are all human beings; we’re all created equal by God; we all share the same original ancestry; so, there is only one race—the \_\_\_\_\_ **race**, with all of these cool varieties within the one race.

So, why all the prejudice, all the hatred, all the emphasis throughout the years of separation and segregation? Why do Blacks and Whites hate Hispanics, and Whites and Hispanics hate Blacks, and Hispanics and Blacks hate Whites? Lots of superficial reasons, like stupidity, ignorance, pride, envy, and the human tendency to clan together. But these are all symptoms of the deepest roots of humanity’s fallenness. From the fallen flesh’s perspective, the root problem is the heart. God put it best when He said, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately \_\_\_\_\_; who can understand it” (Jeremiah 17:9).

Also, people hate because their spiritual father hates. Jesus said of the Pharisees who couldn’t bear to hear His word, “You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires” (John 8:43-44). And Paul said we were all once followers of “the prince of the power of the air [Satan],” and were therefore “sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2). People hate people because their spiritual father hates them. And, Satan especially hates those who belong to God. He hates God’s old and new covenant people because he hates \_\_\_\_\_. Consequently, he pursues with a passion our total destruction.

So, it shouldn’t surprise us that the greatest hatred in all the world is the hatred of the many Gentile groups throughout history for the Jews. No

other ethnic, tribal, or national group has been hated as much as Abraham's descendants. And multiple attempts throughout human history have done their worst to totally wipe them off the face of the earth.

Haman hates the Jews with all of his heart, primarily, it would seem, because he hates Mordecai with all his heart, because Mordecai is the only one in the vast Persian kingdom who will not bow down before him. **Esther 3:5-6 NLT**: "When Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow down or show him respect, he was filled with rage. <sup>6</sup>He had learned of Mordecai's nationality, so he decided it was not enough to lay hands on Mordecai alone. Instead, he looked for a way to destroy all the Jews throughout the entire empire of Xerxes [aka Ahasuerus]."

## The manifestation of Jewish hatred:

### 1. Haman's plot to \_\_\_\_\_ (7-9).

**Verse 7:** Haman was very religious and superstitious. So in order to determine the best day possible to slaughter the Jews, he had his astrologers cast lots. This was done privately before Haman presented the king with his plan. Little did he know that God, who providentially controls all events, is in control of the casting of lots. **Proverbs 16:33** declares, "The lot is cast into the lap, but its \_\_\_\_\_ decision is from the LORD." So, it wasn't "the gods" or Haman who determined the date of "the slaughter." It was Yahweh God!

**Verses 8-9:** In order to satisfy his hurt pride because one man would not bow before him, he portrays himself before the king as one who is deeply concerned about the welfare of the king and his kingdom. He'll even finance the entire project, paying out ten thousand talents of silver, which is estimated to weigh about 750,000 pounds or 375 tons, and worth billions in our day, and equaled about 70% of the king's annual revenue. But were these unnamed people a threat to the king?

When the Jewish people went into exile, God instructed them to be good citizens in the cities in which they would live. Through Jeremiah, God said, "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (29:7). And they actually obeyed God, and were a huge benefit to the communities in which they lived.

## 2. Haman's plot \_\_\_\_\_ (10-12).

The proposal was immediately acceptable to the king. Generally speaking, human life held no value to him. Without asking any questions, he gave Haman his royal signet ring, which granted him the authority to act in the king's name with unlimited authority. Keep in mind, a law of the Medes and Persians *had* to be accepted and obeyed and *could not* be amended or altered. It was the sovereign law of the Medes and Persians, and not even the \_\_\_\_\_ could reverse it.

**Question:** Does anyone hate \_\_\_\_\_? It very well may not be your fault. Satan may be the inspiration in the sick heart of your enemy, to hate you without rhyme or reason. There doesn't have to be a reason, other than a sick heart and demonic power. But know, also, that nothing under heaven happens apart from our heavenly Father's knowledge, power, control, concern, and care. Nothing! That's comforting news for those of us who are hated without cause. And, the truth, *if God is for us, who can be against us?!*

## 3. Haman's plot \_\_\_\_\_ (13-15).

The king's decree was dispatched in March 474 B.C. It's interesting how Haman had it worded, piling up verbs—"destroy, kill, annihilate"—a literary device, that expresses the idea of thoroughness in his decree to rid \_\_\_\_\_ of every last member of God's covenant people.

The first to receive the news was the city of Susa. King Ahasuerus and Haman sat down to eat, drink, and toast themselves with the good news of the decree. The enemy was to be destroyed. Can people be any more calloused, apathetic, and hateful than that? Helen Keller: "Science has found a cure for most evils, but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all—the apathy of \_\_\_\_\_ beings."

And, while Ahasuerus and Haman are living it up, the rest of the city is thrown into confusion: "What in the world is going on? Why are the Jews suddenly targeted as enemies of the empire?" The Jews and the Gentiles had regular social and economic interaction. Many in the city didn't share Haman's passionate anti-Semitism. So this was an incredible atrocity, even to a society that was used to murderous behavior.

**The manifestation of Jewish hatred in the Persian Empire.** In today's world, when hatred is strongly manifested...

## Three application points:

### 1. Don't be \_\_\_\_\_.

We who are in Christ, we're no longer surprised by the devil-inspired, desperate-sickness of the human heart that can and does hate to this degree, are we? The next time you are badly treated for no good reason, think that there's a \_\_\_\_\_ reason. Stop wondering why some people do what some people do. "What makes people do what they do? I don't understand some people!" Stop saying that. **1 Peter 4:12:** "Beloved, *do not be surprised* at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you."

### 2. Trust in God's providential \_\_\_\_\_.

Satan *does* hates you with a passion and so does his minions, both demonic and human. But they're ultimately not in control. Haman only thinks he's got his hand on the switch. Ahasuerus only thinks he's sovereign over all. *But we \_\_\_\_\_ that our good God is in perfect control.* We can even *trust* that He approves as best for us the trouble, the difficulty, the difficult people, *knowing* it will make us more like Christ in our character, and best prepare us for eternal glory. So, even when you don't know what He's doing, *trust* that He knows what He's doing.

### 3. Pray for Jerusalem, God's holy \_\_\_\_\_.

Satan will not stop using people like Haman, and ultimately the Antichrist, to try to destroy God's covenant people and His holy city. So, pray specifically for Jerusalem's eternal peace. **Psalms 112:6:** "Pray for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jerusalem! May they be secure who love you!"