

Haman's Gallows
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Introduction: Our God will abundantly provide for those that trust Him.

- A. When we place our souls in the care of our God, He will take care of His people.
 - 1. The book of Esther is an account of how Satan attempted to destroy the Jews, the chosen people of God, though political power.
 - 2. God's plan was to bring salvation to the world through the Jews. **(Gen 12:1-3)**
- B. Satan has always failed when he tried to defeat the plan of God.
 - 1. There is an unseen spiritual realm where a battle is raging. **(Eph 6:11-12)**
 - 2. We are only given a glimpse of this battle in the scriptures. Elisha let his servant and us briefly see this unseen realm. **(2 Kgs 6:14-17)**
 - 3. Satan attempts to destroy God's people through accusation! **(Rev 12:10)**
 - 4. The book of Esther shows us that both in the protection of Israel and in the care of faithful individuals, God will take care of His people.

I. Those who walk by faith will be despised by the worldly

- A. We learn of two people who served God in difficult circumstances.
 - 1. Esther, who was also called Hadassah, is a Jewish maiden that becomes queen of Persia, in part due to her great beauty. We also can see God's hand in this.
 - 2. Mordecai is Esther's elder cousin, who raised her from childhood. He discovers and foils a plot to kill the king. He is a trustworthy man! **(Esther 2:21-23)**
 - 3. Integrity is a characteristic of God and thus of all who follow Him. Rather than make a false accusation, he carefully acts on provable facts!
- B. Haman is a man that Satan uses to attempt to destroy the Jews. It is no surprise that he does not have control of his heart.
 - 1. Haman was recently promoted and allowed pride to dominate his life.
 - 2. We will see how helpless a worldly man really is when he has no control of his own heart. **(Prov 16:18-20; 25:28)**
 - 3. When a proud man runs across a principled man of faith, there often will be conflict. Proud men are often unstable, demanding the approval of others.
- C. The test of Haman. **(Esther 3:1-5)**
 - 1. He is an "Agagite" who likely hated the Jews. This hatred would not be rational when you consider the present generation. **(Prov 22:24-25; 29:22-23)**
 - 2. Mordecai acted on principle when he refused to bow to Haman.
 - 3. Haman lets bitterness make him miserable and irrational. As in today's politics, Satan blinds and uses others to accuse and destroy. **(Jn 10:10, Eph 4:26-27)**
 - 4. Haman now plots to destroy all Jews. **(Esther 3:8-10, 13)**
 - 5. This is a very dangerous move by Haman. He is attacking the people of God! Bitterness makes one blind to danger and very quick to accuse! **(Jude 9)**

II. God provides for those who walk by faith

- A. God allows both Mordecai and Esther to be tested. **(Deut 8:2, 16)**

1. Mordecai tells Esther that she had to approach the king even if it meant her death. This was not easy council for him to give.
 2. They both knew this was right. They did not know how this would work out for themselves as individuals. **(Esther 4:13-17)**
 3. God's people will not hesitate to give themselves in service to others. They will stand alone if necessary when the time comes to stand.
- B. Haman is now like a lamb for the slaughter.
1. Esther asks for Haman to come to a dinner with the king. **(Esther 5:4)**
 2. This only increases Haman's pride which in turn increases his anger towards Mordecai. In anger, he now makes foolish plans. **(Esther 5:9-14)**
 3. Bitterness makes one miserable even when all may be going well. He unknowingly makes plans for his own destruction. He builds his own gallows!
 4. Bitterness makes one a crazy person. It is likened to drunkenness, where reason and wisdom are not found. **(Deut 29:18-19)**
 5. Who can fight God and win? The proud bitter man thinks he can! "Bitterness is like drinking poison and thinking that it will hurt someone else!"
- C. The awful fall of Haman.
1. The night before the 2nd dinner the king has the records read to him and discovers the past faithful acts of Mordecai. **(Esther 6:2-3)**
 2. Haman who happens to be in the court at this time and is asked by the king what should be done for this man who helped the king. In pride Haman thinks the king is asking about himself! **(Esther 6:6-9)**
 3. The honor Haman wanted for himself was given to Mordecai! Haman had to implement this action. **(Esther 6:11)**
 4. Haman is warned by wise men about the certain failure of his actions towards the Jews. Too bad he did not consult with them first! **(Esther 6:12-14)**
 5. At the second dinner the queen reveals the whole truth about herself and Haman's plot. It is a terrible time of terror for Haman. **(Esther 7:3-6)**
 - a. The king is so angry, he storms out into the palace gardens.
 - b. Haman stayed behind to plead with Esther. He stumbles and falls on Esther just as the king returns.
 - c. Haman is hanged on his own gallows. **(Esther 7:8-10)**

III. How should God's people respond to the political culture of today?

- A. Is it weakness to respond to accusations with love and prayer? **(Psa 109:2-4)**
 2. Satan wants you and I to take on personal vengeance and in that we will destroy ourselves! **(Rom 12:19-21; 1 Pt 2:23)**
 3. When we refuse to do this we will become like our accusers. How? Poison will seep into our hearts!
- B. When we refuse mercy we ourselves will be destroyed! This cancer will enter into our very "body" and "bones." **(Psa 109:16-18; 1 Jn 3:15)**

Conclusion: Let us build hearts of mercy and justice and not the "gallows" of accusation!