

# HAMAN'S FALL

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We are introduced to one of the proudest men in the Bible, Haman, in Esther 3:1-2: "After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him. And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him." Mordecai, a faithful servant of God, would not bow down and reverence a man (Esth 3:2), which filled Haman with wrath (Esth 3:5). Therefore, Haman "thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had showed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai" (Esth 3:6). Haman then obtained authorization from King Ahasuerus to destroy all the Jews throughout the Persian Empire on a set day (Esth 3:7-15). He even built a special gallows, 75 feet high, on which to hang Mordecai. But it was Haman himself that was destined to be hung from his own gallows.

## **Haman's plot against Mordecai**

Mordecai had a young cousin named Hadassah, also called Esther, whom he raised as his own daughter after her parents died (Esth 2:7). Esther was chosen as queen by King Ahasuerus (Esth 2:17). Using her position in the royal house, she requested of the king permission to host a banquet, and to invite Haman to it (Esth 5:1-8). Haman assumed this was for his own honor and went forth that day "joyful and with a glad heart" until he saw Mordecai, who once again refused to stand up or move for him, and was then "full of indignation against Mordecai" (Esth 5:9). Esther 5:10-14 says, "Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife. *And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and tomorrow am I invited unto her also with the king.* Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate. Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, *Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and tomorrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.*"

## **An unexpected turn of events**

That night, the king could not sleep and called for a search of the records that reminded him that Mordecai had once saved the king's life from a plot by two of his chamberlains (Esth 6:1-2; 2:21-23). The king discovered that Mordecai received no "honor and dignity" for his service (Esth 6:3). Meanwhile, Haman had arrived at the court to ask for permission to hang Mordecai on his gallows. But before he could do so, the king asked him, "What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honor more than to myself? And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honor, let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: and let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honor, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus

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(continued)

shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honor. *Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken. Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor.* And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered. And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. *Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.* And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared" (Esth 6:6-14). First of all, the honor that Haman designed to go to himself went to Mordecai. Secondly, that night, at Esther's banquet, the queen obtained permission from the king to have Haman punished for his plot against Mordecai and all the Jews. Esther 7:9-10 says, "*And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, stands in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon. So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai.*"

## **God is not mocked**

What happened to Haman fulfilled several principles which are taught in God's word. First, the proud will be abased. Job 40:11-12 says, "Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one that is proud, and abase him. Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place." In Matthew 23:12, Jesus says, "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." James 4:6 says, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, *God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble,*" and 1 Peter 5:5-6 says, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.*" Galatians 6:7 also says, "*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*" This principle is also declared in Psalm 7:15: "*He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made.*" Similarly, Psalm 9:15 says, "*The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken.*" Haman certainly fell into the pit he had dug for Mordecai. Jesus teaches in Matthew 7:2: "*For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.*" And James 2:13 says, "*For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.*" God brought upon Haman exactly what he had judged and measured towards Mordecai. Haman showed no mercy towards Mordecai and Haman received no mercy from king Ahasuerus. Esther 9:25 says that the king "commanded by letters that his (Haman's) wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows."