

MAY 27

Read Esther 3–7

CHAPTER 3

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.

2 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. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did *him* reverence.

3 Then the king's servants, which *were* in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?

4 Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he *was* a Jew.

5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.

6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed 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.

7 ¶ In the first month, that *is*, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that *is*, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, *to* the twelfth *month*, that *is*, the month Adar.

8 ¶ And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws *are* diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it *is* not for the king's profit to suffer them.

9 If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring *it* into the king's treasuries.

10 And the king took his ring

from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.

11 And the king said unto Haman, The silver *is* given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.

12 Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that *were* over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and *to* every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.

13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, *even* upon the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and *to take* the spoil of them for a prey.

14 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day.

15 The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.

CHAPTER 4

WHEN Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;

2 And came even before the king's gate: for none *might* enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

3 And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, *there was* great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

4 ¶ So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told *it* her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received *it* not.

5. Then called Esther for Hatach, *one* of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend

upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it *was*, and why it *was*.

6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which *was* before the king's gate.

7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them.

8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew *it* unto Esther, and to declare *it* unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.

9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

10 ¶ Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;

11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, *there is* one law of his to put *him* to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the

golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.

12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, *then* shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?

15 ¶ Then Esther bade *them* return Mordecai *this answer*,

16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which *is* not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

CHAPTER 5

NOW it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on

her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.

2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, *that* she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that *was* in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.

3 Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what *is* thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.

4 And Esther answered, If *it seem* good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.

5 Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

6 ¶ And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What *is* thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what *is* thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.

7 Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request *is*;

8 If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.

9 ¶ Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.

10 Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.

11 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.

12 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 to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.

13 Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.

14 ¶ Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow 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.

CHAPTER 6

ON that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

3 And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.

4 ¶ And the king said, Who *is* in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to

hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

5 And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.

6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?

7 And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,

8 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:

9 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 honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

10 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.

11 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 honour.

12 ¶ And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered.

13 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.

14 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.

CHAPTER 7

SO the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

2 And the king said again unto

Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What *is* thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what *is* thy request? and it shall be performed, *even* to the half of the kingdom.

3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

5 ¶ Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?

6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy *is* this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

7 ¶ And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath *went* into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil deter-

mined against him by the king.

8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther *was*. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

9 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, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

In chapter 3 we see Satan begin to work. Haman's promotion went to his head and turned him into a murderer. Mordecai, Esther's cousin and a very faithful Jew, would not bow down to Haman. This made the proud man even angrier. He then decided to destroy all the Jews, just because of his malice toward Mordecai. The decree was written and sent out (verses 7,12), ordering the Persians to destroy, kill, and plunder all the Jews in the vast reaches of the kingdom.

In chapter 4 we see Mordecai their protector. The old Jew that sat at the king's gate now comes to the front. He is God's prepared vessel to save the nation. In verse 14 God sent a message through Mordecai to Esther to remind her of her responsibility. The message convinced Esther that she must do the bidding of the Lord and intercede for His people, even at the risk of personal harm or death.

The events in the next few chapters center around three feasts. In chapters 5 and 6 we read about a feast of rejoicing. The Jews had fasted and prayed with Esther for three days. It was now time to step out by faith and intercede before the king's throne. Keep in mind that Oriental rulers were almost like gods to their people, and their commands, right or wrong, were obeyed. Esther was truly placing her life in God's hands. As she appeared at the entrance of the throne room, the king lifted his golden scepter and called her in. What a fulfillment of the Scripture, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord." Acting very wisely, Esther did not immediately tell Xerxes her true request. Instead, she invited the king and Haman to a banquet. She knew the king's weakness for food and drink, and with womanly intuition she

prepared him for the important request she was about to make. She also gave Haman a false feeling of security by including him. One thing ruined the day for Haman. He saw Mordecai at the gate and decided to bring false charges against him and have him killed, since he would now bow down to Haman. He had a gallows erected, intending to have Mordecai hanged.

Chapter 7 could be called a feast of reckoning. The results of Esther's meeting with the king brought justice to all. Mordecai was set free and Haman was hanged.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished" (Proverbs 27:12).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 17: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 10.

HYMN FOR TODAY

HAPPY THE HOME WHEN GOD IS THERE
by Henry Ware Jr., 1794-1843

This is the season when our attention is especially directed to the basic social institution in society, the home, with special days for recognizing mothers, fathers, and children. The strength of any nation is the quality of its homes. "In love of home, the love of country has its rise," said Charles Dickens.

Home should be the holy of holies in a person's life, a place where ultimate love and acceptance are found between parents and with the children. The real test of a parent's spirituality is his home life—the

daily demonstration of a Christ-like character. As parents, our responsibility is not only to feed and clothe our children's bodies, but to nurture their spirits, their minds, and their moral values. By word and by personal example we must carefully guide our children and fervently seek to show them what it means to be a Christian. Good parenting also involves maintaining strong lines of communication between all members of the family. This demands quality time spent together in discussions, social times, daily spiritual retreats, and weekly periods of instruction and worship in the local church.

This fine text was written by an ordained Unitarian minister, Henry Ware, who later became pastor of the Second Unitarian Church in Boston, Massachusetts. The well-known American poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson, served for a time as Ware's assistant. The hymn first appeared in *Selection of Hymns and Poetry for Use of Infant and Juvenile Schools and Families*, published in 1846.

*Happy the home when God is there
And love fills ev'ry breast,
When one their wish and one their prayer
And one their heav'nly rest.*

*Happy the home where Jesus' name
Is sweet to ev'ry ear,
Where children early lisp His fame
And parents hold Him dear.*

*Happy the home where prayer is heard
And praise is wont to rise,
Where parents love the sacred Word
and all its wisdom prize.*

*Lord, let us in our homes agree
This blessed peace to gain;
Unite our hearts in love to Thee,
And love to all will reign.*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1564

JOHN CALVIN DIED.

On his grave were written simply the words, "John Calvin, father of the Reformed Churches." This, of course, turns our attention toward our Presbyterian friends. Pray for them. Pray for those who believe the Bible that the Father will bless their ministry. Pray for those who doubt the Bible that God will lead them to a faith in the Word of God as held by John Calvin.

1668

MASSACHUSETTS EXILED BAPTISTS.

Yes, you read it right. In 1668 Baptists were exiled in the state of Massachusetts. Immersion was an unpopular mode of baptism and brought much persecution to the Baptist in the early days of our nation. Such men as John Farnum, William Turner, and Thoman Gold were objects of this persecution. Let us pray for Baptists. You'll learn more by reading our series of articles, *The Trail of Blood*, by J.M. Carroll. There is a dangerous trend today toward conformity on the part of Baptists. Baptists historically have been known as evangelistic people and separated people. How sad that in some cases today this is not true. Pray for Baptists everywhere.

2349 B.C.

THE EARTH DRIED AFTER THE FLOOD.

Genesis 8:14. After this God gave the rainbow which is a reminder that the earth will not be destroyed by water again. The rainbow is a type of a cross. The cross is a constant reminder that our sins have been paid for and that we will never face them again.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1849

TOM BETHUNE, BLIND PIANIST AND COMPOSER, BORN.

1861

VICTORIA E. MATTHEW, EDUCATOR, BORN IN NEW YORK. She died in 1898.

1863

IN ILL-CONCEIVED ASSAULT ON PORT HUDSON, LA., TWO LOUISIANA REGIMENTS (FIRST AND THIRD NATIVE GUARDS) MADE SIX GALLANT BUT UNSUCCESSFUL CHARGES ON REBEL FORTIFICATION. A black captain, Andre Cailloux, was hero of the day.

1917

RACE RIOT, EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS.

One black killed.

1958

ERNEST GREEN GRADUATED FROM LITTLE ROCK'S CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL WITH SIX HUNDRED WHITE CLASSMATES.

THE STORY OF THE PSALMS

Psalm 45

AUTHOR: Solomon

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM

Solomon's serious weakness and ultimate downfall was his enchantment with heathen women. As all Bible students know, he had a thousand wives and concubines. On one occasion he married a beautiful Egyptian princess and for that marriage this Psalm was composed and sung.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE

This Psalm was sung at weddings, especially at weddings we would consider unholy ones. Tradition says that it was sung at the wedding of Ahab and Jezebel and also at the wedding of Jehoram and Athaliah. Wise parents will constantly warn their children concerning the dangers of marrying unconverted people, and if such a marriage is unwise, then such a courtship is unwise. Let this Psalm remind us to train our children not to stand in the way of sinners, not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly, but to make their friends, yea, all of their friends and ultimately their husbands and wives only from God's people.

The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS HARD AND DIFFICULT"

(Assignment 17)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV page.)

() Proverbs 13:15

Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

() Proverbs 3:17

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

() Matthew 11:30

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

() Isaiah 41:10

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

() Isaiah 41:11

Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.