

HAMAN: THE MAN WHO MUST BE HONORED

Recognition – we all both **like** it in some ways and we **hate** it in other ways.

Proverbs 20:6 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: **But a faithful man who can find?**

Proverbs 27:2 Let **another** man praise thee, and **not** thine own mouth; A **stranger**, and **not** thine own lips.

Proverbs 25:27 It is **not** good to eat much honey: **So for men to search their own glory is not glory.**

Haman is not us – at least on our good days / normal days.

Haman is us – in our worst days → **his shadow** follows us around and is seen in our desire to criticize, gossip, compare ourselves with others, willingness to tear down others to look good, & the constant griping about everyone and everything except ourselves.

1. Haman – honor conferred!

Esther 3:1 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.** Esther 3:2 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....**

We are introduced to Haman **abruptly** and *mostly positively*:

- Promoted
- Advanced
- Set above all the others
- All must bow & reverence
- According to the King's commandment - and is this not strange?

We all want to know why?

- Haman an Agagite (3:1,10; 8:3,5; 9:24)

Exodus 17:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of **Amalek** from under heaven. Exodus 17:15 And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi: Exodus 17:16 For he said, **Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.**

Numbers 24:7 He shall pour the water out of his buckets, And his seed shall be in many waters, **And his king shall be higher than Agag.** And his kingdom shall be exalted.

1 Samuel 15:7 And **Saul** smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. 1 Samuel 15:8 And he took **Agag** the king of the Amalekites **alive**, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 1 Samuel 15:9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: **but** every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

2 Samuel 1:8 And he said unto me, **Who art thou?** And I answered him, **I am an Amalekite.**

Esther 2:5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a **certain Jew**, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of **Kish**, a **Benjamite**;

2. Haman – honor contested!

Esther 3:2 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.** Esther 3:3 Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, **Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?** Esther 3:4 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.** Esther 3:5 And **when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.**

Anyone in any kind of leadership has experienced this:

But this isn't that!

The question is: Why??? And the answer is

Was it personal?

Was it historical?

Was it tribal?

Was it spiritual?

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: **Genesis 12:2** And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: **Genesis 12:3** And I will **bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee**: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Romans 3:1 What **advantage** then hath the Jew? or what **profit** is there of circumcision? **Romans 3:2** Much every way: chiefly, **because that unto them were committed the oracles of God**.

John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. **John 4:22** Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: **for salvation is of the Jews**. **John 4:23** But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. **John 4:24** God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Esther 3:10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, **the Jews' enemy**.

Esther 7:6 And Esther said, **The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman**. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

Esther 8:1 On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman **the Jews' enemy** unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her.

Esther 9:10 The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, **the enemy of the Jews**, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand.

Esther 9:24 Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, **the enemy of all the Jews**, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them;

3. Haman – honor corrupted!

Esther 3:5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, **then was Haman full of wrath**. **Esther 3:6** **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**. **Esther 3:7** **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**.

Esther 3:13 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**.

At this point:

- **The personal had become political**
- **The Mordecai problem had become the Jewish problem**
- **A matter of honor had become matters of extreme dishonor**
- **Latent anti-Semitism is joined with good old-fashioned greed**
- **Passover is being passed over**

Esther 3:12 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.

4. Haman – honor clueless!

Esther 3:14 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. **Esther 3:15** 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**.

Xerxes was drinking again

Haman was already drunk on his own honor