

HAMAN: THE MAN WHO MUST BE HONORED (2)

What do we find about his attempts to honor himself?

1. Haman manipulated fate / the fates!

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.

It is impossible to totally recover Haman's thinking. We have general knowledge of that time and place.

➤ Life is controlled by fate / the fates

Were there gods behind this? In some countries, fate / the fates controlled the gods! So, in effect, gods behind the gods!

➤ Fate and chance go together / are not opposites

Fate, luck, chance...brings you lucky days, lucky dates and therefore auspicious days!

Combining days, dates, months, years...

➤ Fate can be controlled → to some degree / can be tinkered with

➤ Fate can be controlled by chance / luck → the casting of lots!

➤ Chance / luck helped you find those auspicious days!

➤ Chance / luck came in many forms (forbidden to believers)

Deuteronomy 18:9 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt **not** learn to do after the abominations of those nations. **Deuteronomy 18:10** There shall **not** be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, **or** that useth divination, **or** an observer of times, **or** an enchanter, or a witch, **Deuteronomy 18:11** **Or** a charmer, **or** a consulter with familiar spirits, **or** a wizard, **or** a necromancer. **Deuteronomy 18:12** **For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD:** and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

Deuteronomy 18:13 Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. **Deuteronomy 18:14** For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.

Ezekiel 21:21 For the king of Babylon stood at the parting of the way, at the head of the two ways, **to use divination: he made his arrows bright, he consulted with images, he looked in the liver.** **Ezekiel 21:22** At his right hand was the divination for Jerusalem, to appoint captains, to open the mouth in the slaughter, to lift up the voice with shouting, to appoint battering rams against the gates, to cast a mount, and to build a fort.

Leviticus 18:21 And thou shalt **not** let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

Lots were used many times in the OT and even used favorably → to decide things f / without partiality

Isaiah 34:17 **And he hath cast the lot for them, And his hand hath divided it unto them by line:** They shall possess it for ever, From generation to generation shall they dwell therein.

Nehemiah 10:34 **And we cast the lots among** the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, after the houses of our fathers, at times appointed year by year, to burn upon the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the law:

Nehemiah 10:35 And to bring the firstfruits of our ground, and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, unto the house of the LORD:

1 Chronicles 26:13 **And they cast lots**, as well the small as the great, according to the house of their fathers, for every gate. **1**

Chronicles 26:14 And the lot eastward fell to Shelemiah. Then for Zechariah his son, a wise counsellor, **they cast lots; and his lot came out northward.**

Proverbs 18:18 The lot **causeth** contentions to cease, **And parteth** between the mighty.

2. Haman manipulated the facts!

Esther 3:8 And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is **a certain people** (עַם־אֲשֶׁר) 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.

Facts:

➤ **The Persian Empire was exceptionally multi-everything**

Esther 1:1 NOW it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)

Esther 1:22 For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the **writing** thereof, and to every people after their **language**, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.

➤ **This multi-cultural empire was exceptionally tolerant**

2 Chronicles 36:22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, **that** the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, **the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia**, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, **2 Chronicles 36:23** Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; **and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.**

Ezra 1:1 NOW in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, **that** the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, **the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia**, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, **Ezra 1:2** Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, **The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Ezra 1:3** Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. **Ezra 1:4** And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.



[30] brought their heavy tribute before me and in Babylon they kissed my feet. From [Babylon] to Aššur and (from) [Susa](#), [31] Agade, Ešnunna, Zamban, Me-Turnu, Der, as far as the region of [Gutium](#), the sacred centers on the other side of the [Tigris](#), whose sanctuaries had been abandoned for a long time,

[32] **I returned the images of the gods, who had resided there,^{note} to their places and I let them dwell in eternal abodes. I gathered all their inhabitants and returned to them their dwellings.**

[33] In addition, at the command of Marduk, the great lord, I settled in their habitations, in pleasing abodes, the gods of Sumer and Akkad, whom Nabonidus, to the anger of the lord of the gods, had brought into Babylon.

Cyrus' Prayer

[34] **May all the gods whom I settled in their sacred centers ask daily**

[35] **of Bêl and Nâbu that my days be long and may they intercede for my welfare. May they say to Marduk, my lord: "As for Cyrus, the king who reveres you, and Cambyses, his son,**

➤ **Toleration always has its limits**

Esther 3:8 And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is **a certain people (עַם־אֶזְרָת)** 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. **Esther 3:9** 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.

A. One, certain people

B. Scattered abroad → so not in one city, province

C. Dispersed → unassimilated

D. Their laws are different

Deuteronomy 4:7 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? **Deuteronomy 4:8** And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

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.**

E. They don't keep the King's laws (a half-truth!)

Acts 4:19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. **Acts 4:20** For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Acts 5:27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, **Acts 5:29** Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.**

E. Therefore...!

Esther 3:8 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.** **Esther 3:9** 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. **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 3:11** 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.

Luke 23:1 And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. **Luke 23:2** And they began to accuse him, saying, **We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.**

This is the big three:

1. Fear of instability / unrest
2. Non-payment of taxes
3. Revolt or an uprising of any kind

3. Haman manipulated the future!

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 3:12 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. **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. **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.

Esther 8:9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time **in the third month**, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.

Esther 9:1 Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews **hoped** to have power over them, **(though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)** **Esther 9:2** The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.

Psalms 103:19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; And his kingdom ruleth over all.

Psalms 115:3 But our God is in the heavens: **He hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.**

Psalms 135:5 For I know that the LORD is great, And that our Lord is above all gods. **Psalms 135:6** **Whatsoever the LORD pleased, That did he in heaven, and in earth, In the seas, and all deep places.**

Daniel 4:17, 4:25-35