



General Comments on this portion of Esther¹

- Martin Luther did not think the book of Esther belonged in Bible because “it has much pagan impropriety.”
- Other Jewish rabbis felt the same, because the Persian king is mentioned 190 times and God is never mentioned.
- BW Anderson: “To the Jew, the book dramatizes the eternal miracle of Jewish survival.”
- AE Morris taught that the book was written in the time of Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-172BC) by a Hellenist to show that when Jews comply with the King’s demands they will be successful.
- G. Gerleman shows the similarity between Moses & Esther:
 - Both were adopted
 - Both kept their identity a secret
 - Both were initially reluctant to help their people
 - Both fought against Amalek
 - Both saw their enemies defeated

Introducing Haman | Esther 3:1

- Haman is an **Agagite** - This is not insignificant.
 - In Numbers 24:7, the "Oracle of Balaam" says that the Kingdom of Israel shall be "higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted." However, Agag, king of the Amalekites, reigned during the time of Saul, hundreds of years after Balaam. But since the Hebrew word אָגָג [agag] means "I will overtop" (Strong's), Balaam is saying, "His kingdom will be higher than the one who says he is highest."
- Later, Agag becomes King and Saul captures him, yet lets him live, disobeying the instructions of God through Samuel. Agag was King of the Amalekites, and the Amalekites were Nephilim.
- It is possible that Numbers 24:7 is a direct prophecy of Agag the King, mentioned by name hundreds of years before his reign. If so, it would be a direct prophecy of Saul being "taller" than Agag (rather than higher), yet when Saul failed to destroy Agag, he failed to fulfill his legacy and thus was removed from the throne.
- The Amalekites were Edomites – Genesis 36:12.

¹ Information in this section drawn from “Unusual Bible Interpretations: Ruth, Eshter, and Judith” by Israel Drazin.

Haman's Pride and Mordecai's Stubborn Refusal | Esther 3:2-6

- Verse 2: Since we do not know the motive, we must refrain from praising or condemning Mordecai.
- Verse 3: Civil disobedience has been a fact of human existence since the first days of Government. The Bible promotes civil disobedience when it goes against obedience to God.
- Verse 4: This is the closest clue to the fact that Mordecai was now holding to any form of Jewish faith. Previously he had kept this hidden (2:10).
- Verse 6: This gives some indication that Mordecai was not alone in his refusal to bow, but that the King's servants pointed out that all the Jews were making such refusal.

Haman's Plot and the King's Decree | Esther 3:7-15

- Verse 7:
 - Esther was now in the fifth year of her reign.
 - While the word **lot** is used 77 times in the Hebrew Scriptures, the Persian word **Pur** is only used in Esther.
 - It appears that the Pur is being used as a divination tool, to instruct Haman as to when to take action on the disrespect shown him by the Jews.
 - Whatever is happening, there is a 12-month period in which Mordecai is refusing to bow.
- Verse 8:
 - The "diaspora" really began in 722 BC and continues to this day.
 - This was the Babylonian diaspora (which continued until modern times, coming to a close in the years after 1979 and the American policies which brought about modern Iran.
 - It is a miraculous work of God (and testimony to His future work) that, in spite of lack of faith and spiritual blindness, the Jewish people have kept their identity.
 - **Neither keep they the king's laws** - This is political spin at its best. There was only *one* particular law that was not obeyed. Even kings should "question the assumptions."
- Verse 9: Government officials have often used the government to fund their evil plans.
- Verse 12: This is one year after the original offence. It is also the eve of Passover, which is not mentioned here, indication that the Jews were not fully carrying out their religious duty.
- Verse 15: Once again a common trait of government is seen. Only government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" can overcome this, yet such a government is rare among men, even in the USA.