

Day 22

- Alright, today, we get to see the villain of the account of Esther enter into view. His name is Haman, and he is an Agagite. Now, why does the Bible include that Haman is an Agagite, you might ask? Well, that is a very important question!
 - To answer that question, we will have to go back in history A LOT of years. We will have to go back to the very first king of Israel, King Saul.
 - Before Israel had a human king, God was their King. Now, I hope we can all realize that to have God as your King is the perfect; perfect leadership, perfect protection; perfect. But, the Israelites wanted an earthly king like the other neighboring kingdoms and tribes of people. Now, God could have refused — but, sometimes a very good parent knows to, at times, give the children what they ask for because they will never see the truth of it all, without getting what they ask for. Now, being the perfect parent, the LORD God informed them of what they were demanding from Him, and what the consequences of their actions would mean as well.
 - “Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of **all kingdoms** and from those who oppressed you.’ But you have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations; and you have said to Him, ‘No, set a king over us!’ Now therefore, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans.” 1 Samuel 10:17-19.
 - Remember, the Law of Seed, Plant, Harvest and the Law of Agreement have long been set in motion at this point. God is warning His people of the consequences of their actions because He always wants them to seed good seed for a good harvest. Just like He always wants us to seed good seed for a good harvest.
 - In 1 Samuel 8:10-18, Samuel tells the people of Israel what it means to be under a king’s rule. He tells them the king will take their sons and make them be in his army, take care of his chariots, his animals, plow his fields — meaning, no longer would the people be free to choose how they would live and what they would do. They would be, once again, in a form of bondage, perpetual servitude, under the whims of a mere man, a king. “He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day.” 1 Samuel 8:13-18. Did you notice in there how many times God tells them, you will be the king’s servants?
 - They didn’t care; they wanted a king. They could not see what their actions and desires were seeding for them — a harvest to come that they really wouldn’t want once they got to that harvest.
 - So, Saul is made king — in his time as king, he quickly begins to not honor God in leading Israel — for times sake, I will not go into it all, but I do encourage you to read about King Saul in 1 Samuel.
 - Now, the LORD had told Saul to destroy the Amalekites; to wipe them from the land. This may seem harsh, but remember the Law of Seed, Plant, Harvest. It doesn’t just apply to Israel; it applies to all mankind. The Amalekites had seeded for their harvest; they sacrificed their children, babies to older children to their god molech, who required child sacrifice to keep him happy — yes, molech or

Baal is a demonic being, one of Satan's fallen angels. Many of you would recognize the name Baal from the time of Elijah and King Ahab and Queen Jezebel.

- There is always a reason for the LORD's commands — remember, I'm sharing this account in 1 Samuel because it directly relates to the book of Esther.
- King Saul did not do as the LORD commanded. He didn't kill all the livestock, nor all the people, which included the king of the Amalekites, King Agag — do you see it now? King Agag...Haman the Agagite (or son of Agag).
 - The Prophet Samuel had to kill King Agag because Saul failed to do so, and in that moment of having to kill Agag, Samuel tells Saul that God has removed him as king of Israel and is giving the anointing and authority as king to another. That other, is King David, the man after God's own heart.
- Alright, back to the book of Esther. Now, since the death of King Agag, about 500 years has passed. I want you to see all of this because not only do we see how long hate and revenge can burn inside of a soul or a people, but we also see, which is far more important, how God foresees all things, and as I said before, places windows, doors, ladders, people, and events in place to allow escape for His people, an escape back to Him. And Remember the scripture, "Be sober, be vigilant, for your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8. Satan is always seeking moments in time to destroy God's people. Haman was open to be used, so Satan jumped at the chance to use him. Remember, "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:12.
- Haman the Agagite had found favor in the sight of King Ahasuerus, so the king elevated him above all the princes who were with him. "And all the king's servants who were within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him." Esther 3:2.
 - Now, Mordecai refused to bow and pay homage to Haman. Day after day, he refused, for Mordecai was a Jew, and he had one King he bowed before, and that King was God Himself.
 - Haman burned with hate for Mordecai, but he feared to lay hands on Mordecai alone because there were a lot of Jews in the citadel of Shushan. "Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the WHOLE kingdom of Ahasuerus — the people of Mordecai." Esther 3:5
 - So, in the 12th year of King Ahasuerus reign, 5 years after Esther had become Queen, Haman cast Pur (that is, the lot) to determine the day and month they would set as the time to destroy all the Jews.
- Side note: 5 years Esther had been Queen to King Ahasuerus — 5 is the grace of God; it is the place where God gives us the ability to overcome something. It is the number linked to God's favor. (Numbers that Preach, Troy A. Brewer). Now, remember, there are no coincidences. God was speaking through the number five; Five years, Esther had showed her love to her king, her husband; five years, he had known her love and returned it to her. Five — was definitely God's favor on Esther to have the power to overcome the adversity that was about to come against her and her entire race of people.
- Now, this is where we have a huge picture of how advisors can poison a king, a president, or a ruler to bend in the direction of the advisor's personal agenda — Haman used his power and position to manipulate the king into giving him what he wanted.
 - BUT, King Ahasuerus is very culpable in this action. One, he was not thinking about ALL the people he was in charge of throughout his whole kingdom, and

he didn't count the cost of Haman's request. He didn't take the time to investigate or even think on what was being asked of him, and in one flick of a pen or in his case, one handing over of his signet ring and nod of his head, he sealed the destruction of an entire nation of people.

- Haman said to the king, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain. If it pleases the king, let a DECREE be WRITTEN that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasuries." Esther 3:8-9.

- So, for a few pieces of silver, the king signed and sealed a decree to destroy the Jewish people — Is this not reminiscent of another deceiver who, for 30 pieces of silver, delivered the **King of the Jews** up to be crucified — God is always talking, always showing us what is to come; we just have to be watching and listening to know what He is saying.
- We will pick up with the account of Esther tomorrow.
- Until then, be blessed and encouraged because God's plans are ALWAYS the best!!