

# HAMAN THE AGAGITE

Esther 3



## SYNOPSIS

As we are introduced to the antagonist of the story, Haman the Agagite, we also need to be aware of the larger cosmic conflict where we have been introduced to the antagonist of the unified story of God - Satan (the enemy, adversary). It's been 5 years since Esther has become Queen, and King Xerxes has decided to promote Haman, but the conflict we see is that Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman, which was customary.

It's important to know that Haman is an Agagite a descendent of King Agag the Amalekite, because the Amalekites were the archenemies of Israel. Throughout Israel's history, the Amalekites have been a thorn in their flesh, warring with them, even as they were leaving Egypt, attacking their weak and vulnerable. And we also find out last week that Mordecai is a descendant of King Saul. So we see this ongoing conflict. But more than that, we see that though this is a conflict between two men, we are aware of the cosmic struggle/battle that exists in the backdrop. We are told that our struggle is not just against flesh and blood, but that there is a spiritual battle happening in the background.

In this story, Haman is given power to wipe out the Jews, as he casts lots (seeking demonic permission) to plunder and destroy 2-3 million Jews in the Persian empire. We see a demonic plan being devised against the people of God, the lineage of the Messiah; through Haman, the Agagite, the archenemy of the Israelites.

And as goes the theme of Esther, the sovereignty of God (though hidden) is plain, for all who understand, to see. The edict goes out on the thirteenth day of the first month (Nisan) - the day of preparation for Passover. And Passover is a reminder of God's deliverance of God's people from Egypt. The city is thrown into a frenzy because of this edict, and as Israel sits in this moment of despair, not knowing what is going to happen in this battle, they hold onto hope that God's plan will not be thwarted by the enemy.

Two Applications: 1) Intercede for the Persecuted Church in the world that is currently going through despair and persecution because of their faith in Jesus. 2) Gear up for the fight, as we understand that there is a spiritual battle happening because we are the people of God who bear His image.



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

How often do you think about the spiritual realm and the cosmic conflict that is happening in the background? What comes to mind when you think about it?

2

How do you approach conflict in your life? What's the right approach to understanding adversary and difficulties in life?

3

From this chapter, how do you see the sovereignty of God at play?

4

Spend some time to search up the Persecuted Church and understand what they are going through. Pray for the believers that are going through persecution at this very moment,

5

How can you gear up to fight? What does it look like to put on the armor of God so that we can wage war against the enemy?



## OUTLINE

1

### HISTORICAL AND COSMIC CONFLICT

The conflict between the Amalekites and the Israelites go back for centuries, but more than that, in the biblical worldview we see the cosmic conflict between Satan and God's people that exists throughout all of human history in the Story of God.

2

### THE DEMONIC PLAN

Haman is angered by Mordecai, scoffing at the idea of killing Mordecai - he wants all of the Jews to be wiped out. Here we get a glimpse of a demonic plan. Mordecai represents the archenemies of God and influenced by Satan's demonic plan to destroy the people of God and the lineage of the Messiah who is to come.

3

### THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

The edict goes out a day before Passover, almost as a reminder that God has delivered His people in the past. Though He is not mentioned in this story, it is apparent that He is sovereign throughout the story.



## BIG IDEA

We are reminded that there is a cosmic struggle, a spiritual warfare that happens in the backdrop. Patterns in history can point us to a greater reality of the spiritual realm. And yet, through it out, God is sovereign. We may not understand everything that is playing out, but we have hope and trust that God's plan will not be thwarted by the enemy. As we sit with that, let's pray for the Persecuted Church who is currently suffering greatly because of their faith, and let's gear up to fight, understanding that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities and the dark forces in the heavenly realms.

