

Esther 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. Haman's rage escalated from personal vendetta to genocide. Killing Mordecai alone seemed insufficient—"he thought scorn" (vayiven be-einav, וַיִּבֶן בְּעֵינָיו, literally "it was contemptible in his eyes") to target only one man. Learning Mordecai's Jewish identity, Haman "sought to destroy all the Jews" throughout the empire. This genocidal impulse reveals satanic hatred far beyond personal offense. The ancient enmity between Amalek and Israel resurfaces—Haman represents not just personal pride but spiritual warfare against God's covenant people. His plot to "destroy" (hashmid, הַשְׁמִיד) all Jews attempted to prevent the Messiah's coming by eliminating the chosen lineage. God's providence will transform this existential threat into ultimate deliverance.

Historical Context

The escalation from personal revenge to ethnic genocide demonstrates ancient honor culture's extreme dynamics but also reveals deeper spiritual warfare. Amalekite-Israelite enmity was ancient and bitter (Exodus 17; 1 Samuel 15). Haman's identification of "the people of Mordecai" as Jews created opportunity for

racial/religious persecution masquerading as security concerns (v. 8). Historical precedent shows ancient empires sometimes authorized pogroms against ethnic/religious minorities viewed as threats. The Persian administrative apparatus that could implement empire-wide decrees (used positively in Cyrus's decree allowing Jewish return, Ezra 1) could equally enable empire-wide persecution. Satan's repeated attempts to destroy the messianic line (Exodus 1; Matthew 2; Revelation 12) find expression here through Haman's plot.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Haman's escalation from personal offense to genocide illustrate how pride and hatred, unchecked, lead to monstrous evil?
2. What does this passage teach about spiritual warfare and satanic attempts to destroy God's redemptive purposes through His chosen people?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּבְזֹ	בָּעֵינָיו	לָשֵׁל ח	יָד	מֶרְדֵּכָי:	לִבְדּוֹ	כִּי
scorn	And he thought	to lay	hands	of Mordecai		
H959	H5869	H7971	H3027	H4782	H905	H3588
הֵגִידוּ	לֹא	אֶת	עַם	מֶרְדֵּכָי:	וַיִּבְקֹשׁ	
alone for they had shewed			even the people	of Mordecai	sought	
H5046	H0	H853	H5971	H4782	H1245	
הָמָן	לְהַשְׁמֵ יָד	אֶת	כָּל	הַיְּהוּדִים	אֶשְׁרֵי	בְּכָל
wherefore Haman	to destroy			all the Jews		
H2001	H8045	H853	H3605	H3064	H834	H3605
מֶלֶךְ וְ			אֶחָשֶׁוֶר וְ	עַם	מֶרְדֵּכָי:	
that were throughout the whole kingdom			of Ahasuerus	even the people	of Mordecai	
H4438			H325	H5971	H4782	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 83:4 (Parallel theme): They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.