

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, וַיַּבְנֵן בְּעִינָיו, 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, תַּמְשִׁיךְ) 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 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

פִּי לְבָדׁ וְ מְרֹדְכָּי
scorn And he thought to lay hands of Mordecai
H959 H5869 H7971 H3027 H4782 H905 H3588

וַיַּבְקַשׁ מְרֹדְכָּי עַמּוֹד אֶת לְבָדׁ
alone for they had shewed even the people of Mordecai sought
H5046 H0 H853 H5971 H4782 H1245

בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר רָבָת יְהוּדָה כָּל אֶת לְבָשָׂת יְהוּדָה
wherefore Haman to destroy all the Jews
H2001 H8045 H853 H3605 H3064 H834 H3605

מֶלֶךְ וְתִשְׁאַל אַפְשִׁיר וְשָׁמְרָה מְרֹדְכָּי
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.

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