# Esther 3:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them.

## **Analysis**

Haman's accusation: 'And Haman said unto the king, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them'. Haman's genocidal proposal disguises antisemitism as state security concern. He identifies Jews without naming them ('a certain people'), emphasizes their dispersal (implying infiltration), claims legal non-compliance, and argues economic benefit to killing them. This malicious distortion exemplifies how hatred rationalizes atrocity through false security concerns. Yet God's providence will turn Haman's plot into instrument of Jewish deliverance and Haman's own destruction.

#### **Historical Context**

Ancient empires often scapegoated minority populations during crises. Haman's argument—Jews are different, don't obey laws, harm royal interests—mirrors antisemitic tropes throughout history. The claim that eliminating Jews would profit the king (Haman offered 10,000 talents silver, v. 9) added financial incentive. Archaeological evidence shows ancient Near Eastern kingdoms sometimes

authorized persecution of ethnic/religious minorities viewed as threats. Haman's manipulation of Ahasuerus demonstrates how demagogues use fear and greed to incite state-sponsored violence. God's providence would expose this plot and reverse it completely.

### **Related Passages**

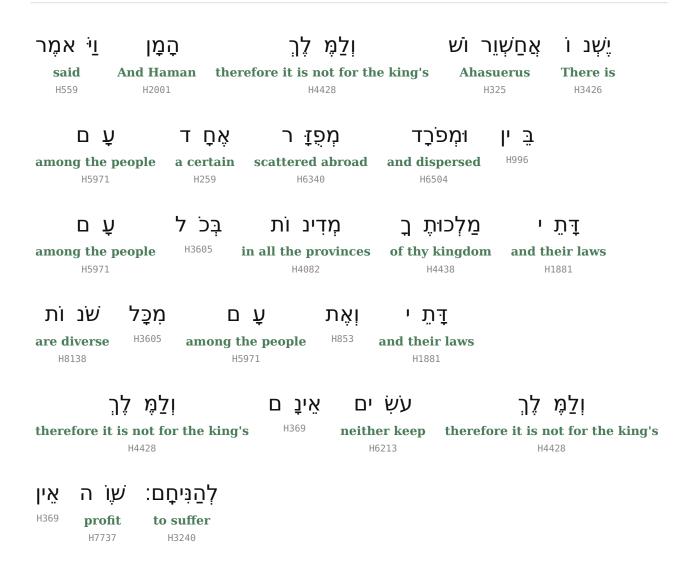
**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## **Study Questions**

- 1. How does Haman's deceptive accusation illustrate how hatred uses security fears and economic arguments to justify atrocity?
- 2. What does this teach about vigilance against scapegoating minorities during crises?

#### **Interlinear Text**



#### **Additional Cross-References**

**Deuteronomy 4:27** (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you.

**Leviticus 26:33** (Word): And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.