

# Esther 8:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.

## Analysis

**And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.** Despite Haman's execution and Mordecai's elevation, the core crisis remained—the immutable decree. Esther returned to the king, this time prostrate and weeping, begging him to "put away" (haavir, הָעִבִּיר, "cause to pass away/remove") Haman's decree. The phrase "besought him with tears" emphasizes emotional intensity and desperate appeal. Her reference to "Haman the Agagite" connects his plot to ancient Amalekite enmity toward Israel (Exodus 17; 1 Samuel 15). Though Haman was dead, his "device" (machashavah, מַחְשָׁבָה, "evil plan/scheme") survived in the irreversible decree. This scene demonstrates that removing the perpetrator doesn't automatically remove evil's effects—systemic injustice requires active dismantling.

## Historical Context

Persian law's immutability (1:19; 8:8) meant Haman's decree couldn't simply be revoked, even after his execution. This created legal crisis requiring creative solution. Esther's tears and prostration demonstrate both genuine emotion and rhetorical strategy—appealing to the king's compassion and affection. Her specific

mention of Jews as the targeted group revealed her identity's full implications: the king's authorization threatened his own queen's people. The reference to Haman as "Agagite" reminded the king that this was ancient ethnic enmity, not mere political conflict. Ancient sources describe similar situations where executed officials' policies remained legally binding, creating administrative and moral problems.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the persistence of evil decree despite Haman's death illustrate that removing individual perpetrators doesn't automatically dismantle systemic injustice?
2. What does Esther's continued intercession teach about persistence in advocacy even after partial victories?

## Interlinear Text

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לִפְנֵי י וַתִּפֹּל ל הֶמָּלֶךְ לִפְנֵי י וַתְּדַבֵּר אֶסְתֵּר ר וַתֹּסֶף  
yet again And Esther spake at the king and fell down at  
H3254 H635 H1696 H6440 H4428 H5307 H6440

כַּעַת אֶת לְהַעֲבִיר ל וּ וַתִּתְחַנֵּן וַתִּבֶּן וְהָלַךְ יו  
his feet him with tears and besought H0 to put away H853 the mischief  
H7272 H1058 H2603 H5674 H7451

עַל חָשׁ ב אֲשֶׁר מַחְשַׁבְתּוֹ וְאֵת הָאָגִיט הֶמָּלֶךְ  
of Haman the Agagite H853 and his device H834 that he had devised H5921  
H2001 H91 H4284 H2803

כְּהוֹדִים:  
against the Jews  
H3064