

When hate takes over

Esther 3, page 397

I. WHEN XERXES HONORED HAMAN, MORDECAI THE JEW REFUSED TO KNEEL FOR HIM (ESTHER 3:1-4).

- A. Xerxes honored Haman above all other officials and required all to kneel to honor him at the king's gate (1).
- B. Mordecai refused to kneel as a Jew (2-4).

II. HAMAN HATEFULLY PLOTTED TO DESTROY ALL JEWS BECAUSE MORDECAI WAS JEWISH (ESTHER 3:5-6).

- A. Haman was furious because Mordecai didn't bow to him (5).
Principle: Our greatest anger is aroused by our personal pride.
- B. Haman determined to kill all Jews, not just Mordecai (6).

Antisemitism and God's preservation of the Jews

Abrahamic covenant – God will bless Israel

Biblical prophecy (Zeph. 3:15-20 etc.) – God will restore & bless Israel

Historical antisemitism – Jews will be hated, but God will bless Israel

III. HAMAN MANIPULATED KING XERXES TO DECLARE JEWS ENEMIES WHO MUST BE DESTROYED (ESTHER 3:7-15).

- A. Haman superstitiously cast lots to time the genocide of Jews (7).
Principle: God controls what we think is random (Prov. 26:33).
- B. Haman convinced Xerxes to exterminate the Jews as enemies and offered a generous gift to the treasury (8-11).
- C. Haman proclaimed the offer throughout the kingdom that those who killed Jews could confiscate their property (12-15).
Principle: Anger and hate in the heart grows worse, not better.