### Esther

## Chapter 3

1However, after that, King ArtaXerxes honored HaMan (son of AmaDathes the AgAgite). He promoted him over all his friends and seated him in [the most prominent position].  
  
2So thereafter, everyone in the courtyard had to bow before HaMan, because the king said that they had to do so… However, MordecAi refused to do this. 3As a result, the people in the king’s courtyard started asking MordecAi why he was disobeying the order of the king.  
  
4And although they spoke to him about this every day, MordecAi just didn’t pay any attention to them... So someone thereafter pointed out to HaMan that MordecAi had been disobeying the king’s orders, and he also mentioned that MordecAi was a Judean.  
  
5Well, when HaMan found out that MordecAi wasn’t bowing before him, this made him very angry! 6So, that’s when he started making plans to remove all the Judeans from the kingdom of ArtaXerxes.  
  
  
7Then, during the 12th year of the reign of ArtaXerxes, he drafted a law, and he threw lots for each day and month to determine when the best time would be to destroy the race of MordecAi…  
  
And it fell on the 14th day of the month of Adar.  
  
8So he went and spoke to King ArtaXerxes and said this:  
  
 ‘There’s a nation that’s mixed among all the nations of your kingdom whose laws are different from those of the other nations, and they disregard the laws of the king!  
  
 ‘Therefore, it isn’t to the king’s advantage to keep them... 9So if it seems good to the king; may he approve this decree [that I’ve written], which says that they must be destroyed!  
  
 ‘Then I’ll appropriate 10,000 gold coins from the king’s treasury to get it done.’  
  
10Well, the king removed his ring and handed it to HaMan to seal the judgment that he had written against the Judeans.  
  
11And the king said to HaMan:  
  
 ‘As for the [money]; you have it.  
  
 ‘And as for that nation; treat them in any way that you wish!’  
  
12So then the king called in his scribes (on the 13th day of the 1st month) and they copied HaMan’s orders [and sent them to] all the military commanders and governors from India to Ethiopia… To 127 districts.  
  
[HaMan also] sent letters to all the rulers of the nations in their own languages in the name of King ArtaXerxes.  
  
13He sent them by couriers throughout ArtaXerxes’s kingdom, [telling the people] to wipe out the race of the Judeans on the [13th] day of the 12th month (Adar), and he told them that they could plunder all their possessions.  
  
14So, copies of the letters were put on display everywhere... And then the day was set and everything was being prepared and made ready… 15Even in Even in <span class="placename">SusaEven in <span class="placename">Susa</span>.  
  
And after that, the king and HaMan toasted each other, as the whole city was in an uproar.