

The Book of Esther – Part Seven

March 7th, 2010

Adapted from John Herbert's Notes; Presented by Ralph Alley

1). We ended last week with the beginning of Chapter 3 from the Book of Esther –

Esther 3:1

After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him. 2 And all the king's servants who were within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.

a). We read about Haman's actions towards the Jews, specifically because of Mordecai's refusal to pay him homage –

Esther 3:8

Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain. 9 "If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasuries." 10 So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 11 And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people are given to you, to do with them as seems good to you."

b). Haman's promotion within Ahasuerus's kingdom, 'above all the princes who were with him' – is a picture for us of the future day when God will allow Antichrist to be seated upon Satan's throne, for the purpose of bringing to completion God's plans and purposes for Israel.

c). And Haman's actions typify the actions of Antichrist during that coming day when he will seek to persecute and destroy every single Jew from the face of the earth.

2). And linked with Antichrist's rise to power is the role of the Gentile nations, over which he will have control as world ruler, in bringing to fulfillment God's plans and purposes.

a). It is within the Gentile nations and as a result of the persecution experienced amongst those nations that Israel will be brought to repentance. This is seen in another type picture with the first generation in Egypt -

Exodus 1:8

Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; 10 "come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land." 11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses.

b). As a result of the intensity of their persecution, they cried out to the God of their fathers -

Exodus 3:7

And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

c). And as a consequence of their crying out to God, God sent Moses back as their deliverer, to take them from Egypt to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to rule at the head of the nations within a theocracy.

d). This is an exact picture of what will take place during the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation, which will result in the One greater than Moses being sent back to bring Israel out of their dispersion among the Gentile nations into the very same land in fulfillment of that pictured in Exodus.

e). The use of the Gentile nations as the means by which Israel is to be brought to repentance is also shown to us in the nation's captivity in Babylon -

Jeremiah 21:7

"And afterward," says the LORD, "I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, his servants and the people, and such as are left in this city from the pestilence and the sword and the famine, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those who seek their life; and he shall strike them with the edge of the sword. He shall not spare them, or have pity or mercy."

f). And further on in Jeremiah we can see how Nebuchadnezzar's actions are completely within the realm of God's sovereignty -

Jeremiah 27:6

'And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant; and the beasts of the field I have also given him to serve him.

g). Nebuchadnezzar is at this point and remains a pagan (?????) and in no way could he be seen as a servant of God in the way that we would understand of a believer (????)- but he is God's servant in that he is appointed by God - the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses. - in order to bring about the accomplishment of God's purpose.

h). It is no different today within the Gentile nations of the world and will be no different with respect to Antichrist, the one of whom Nebuchadnezzar is also a type.

i). Throughout Israel's history, from the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities onwards, Israel has been scattered amongst the Gentile nations and has experienced ongoing persecution in different phases of intensity. There has not been a time, since the captivities, when the Jew somewhere in the world has not been persecuted.

j). And as we know those Jews in the land of Israel today, still in unrepentance and disobedience, will again be scattered at the midpoint in the Tribulation to experience persecution amongst the Gentile nations such as has never been seen in all of human history.

3). And then, in another seeming paradox, the very nations who bring about God's purpose of bringing Israel to repentance through persecution will then be judged in accord with their treatment of the nation in line with that which was stated in –

Genesis 12:1

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

And –

b). Joel 3:1

"For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations;

And –

Zechariah 14:12

And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.

4). So we may conclude that the events of human history with respect to the rise and fall of nations and their ever changing leadership is neither random nor given to chance, but is all working, even though we may not fully understand the details, towards the fulfillment of God's plans and purposes set in place before the foundation of the world.

a). The repetition we see in scripture with regards to that seen in Esther, Daniel and Revelation (...here a little and there a little...) serves to assure us of the certainty of, and demonstrates the intricacy of, God's work within this one realm of His Kingdom. In this there is comfort and hope as well as unavoidable warning.

b). This future event we see typified by Haman's actions regarding the Jews (Esther chapters 3-9) happens at the mid-way point of Daniel's 70th week - some 3 1/2 years into the Tribulation. This will be the final and most intense out-pouring of God's wrath upon the Jewish people that has ever been. And God will make this occur through the actions of Antichrist as he attempts to annihilate the Jewish nation.

d). In this respect, the events in Esther would coincide with the events of the opening of the 7th seal recorded in -

Revelation 8:1

When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

e). Within the 7th seal are the 7 trumpet judgments, and within the seventh trumpet are the 7 vial judgments - giving us 3 sets of 7 pointing to the completeness of God's judgments manifested at this time with respect to Israel and the earth dwellers.

5). Let's now take a look at Haman himself, and let's notice how Scripture describes him – "...the son of Hammedatha the Agagite." And this means of identifying Haman, and also his ten sons, is used no fewer than 5 times in chapters 3-9 [3:1, 3:10, 8:5, 9:10, 9:24].

a). This term "Agagite" should immediately cause us to think of another character from Scripture – an Amalekite king called Agag. For those of us familiar with our past message series on the topic of the Amalekites, "Amalekite" should bring to your mind all sorts of connections. So let's see why this particular genealogy of Haman's is so important as to be mentioned so many times.

6). We first see Amalek in –

Genesis 36:12

Now Timna was the concubine of Eliphaz, Esau's son, and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz.

a). Amalek was Esau's grandson,, and as such is associated with the man of the flesh whom Esau represents – setting him in opposition to the man of the spirit, typified in Jacob.

b). This antagonism between the flesh and the spirit is centered around one thing only – the fulfillment of God's plans and purposes with regards to rulership –

Galatians 4:29

But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.

And –

Galatians 5:17

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

And-

Galatians 6:8

For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap [age lasting] life.

e). Let us be in no doubt that the aim of the flesh, if we can say it this way, because of its connection with this world and the god of this world, is to prevent us from attaining age-lasting life, and thereby a position with Christ.

f). Our flesh is an adversary who does not 'get better' and does not grow weaker, and remains our most destructive antagonist.

g). Our ability to have victory over the flesh comes only as a result of our growth in the spirit, as a result of proper engagement with the word of God and the faithful obedience that should attend that engagement.

h). Without the dedicated, continual, disciplined study of the Word, followed by the practice of that Word, our flesh will gain the upper hand.

7). This battle between the flesh and the spirit with regards to rulership is further typified for us in the conflict between the Amalekites and Israel.

a). But if we set this particular aspect of the picture aside for one moment, we can begin to see why this conflict is used in association with Haman and his dealings with Israel. It is the very conflict that has existed between the Gentile nations and Israel ever since Israel became a nation for the purpose of rulership. Only one nation has been chosen to be at the head of the nations and be the conduit for God's blessings to those nations, and that of course is Israel.

No Gentile nation, no matter how well meaning or philanthropic, can stand in Israel's place. Nor could it, as every Gentile nation is subject to the god of this world within the present system of rulership under Satan - only

Israel is not to be counted amongst the nations and is separate from Satan's kingdom under Michael their Prince.

b). Now back to Israel and Amalek-

[Exodus 17:8](#)

[Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.](#)

c). Immediately following the nations deliverance from Egypt and their passage through the Red Sea (as they begin their march towards the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to rule over the Gentile nations within a Theocracy) the attack comes.

d). And the attack comes from the Amalekites, the descendants of Esau, a Gentile nation.

8). Because of the Amalekites actions in being the first nation to attack God's adopted firstborn son with the purpose of thwarting God's plans for him, God issues a decree regarding the Amalekites -

[Exodus 17:14](#)

[Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." 15 And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner; 16 for he said, "Because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."](#)

a). According to the scripture God will, 'utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven' and 'will have war with Amalek from generation to generation'.

b). Interestingly enough, the Amalekites now only exist in the pages of scripture. There is no physical or archaeological evidence that such a people ever existed. God has indeed blotted out their remembrance from under heaven.

9). Not only is Amalek to be utterly destroyed, his destruction is to be at the hand of the Jewish people -

Deuteronomy 25:17

"Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, 18 "how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God. 19 "Therefore it shall be, when the LORD your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.

a). God's command to Israel with respect to Amalek provided another opportunity for Israel's disobedience, which we see reaching its zenith with regards to God's injunction against Amalek, some four hundred years after the injunction was given - during the days of Saul and David.

b). And this high point of disobedience with regards to Amalek brings us face to face with Agag -

1Samuel 15:18

"Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' 19 "Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" 20 And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 "But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal." 22 Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. 23 For

rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."

c). Agag is the personification of the anti-Semitism that is the prevailing force amongst the Gentile nations, and in allowing him to live, Saul is not only perpetuating that anti-Semitism, he also gives it his unspoken approval. This is why he is rejected as king. His disobedience and the consequences of that disobedience meant that he turned back from (he apostatized) with regards to Israel's calling.

d). And this epitomizes Israel's relationship with the Gentile nations over the centuries. They have formed alliances with and lived among the very nations they should have overthrown - hence God sees their actions as harlotry -

Revelation 17:4

The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. 5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

e). We can only conclude that it is the consequence of Israel's lack of action that has allowed the anti-Semitism personified in Agag to continue that finds its expression in Esther through the actions of Haman.

f). Haman's connection with Agag has more to do with the anti-Semitism that Agag represents than any kind of family connection -

Esther 3:10

So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

10). In fact, any kind of family connection between Haman and Agag is most improbable as it appears that some three hundred years after the days of Saul and David, during the reign of Hezekiah the Amalekites were finally destroyed by the hand of Israel.

a). 1Chronicles 4:41

These recorded by name came in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah; and they attacked their tents and the Meunites who were found there, and utterly destroyed them, as it is to this day. So they dwelt in their place, because there was pasture for their flocks there. 42 Now some of them, five hundred men of the sons of Simeon, went to Mount Seir, having as their captains Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah, and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi. 43 And they defeated the rest of the Amalekites who had escaped. They have dwelt there to this day.

b). From this point on in scripture the Amalekites are referred to as a people that existed in past history.

c). The events in the Book of Esther take place some two hundred years after that recorded in 1 Chronicles.

d). There is apparently archaeological evidence of a geographical region within the kingdom of Ahasuerus that was called 'Agag', and so on a very simple level reference to Haman being an 'Agagite' would simply denote the area from which he came. However, I think we would need to see beyond the simple to what the Spirit says with regards to Haman's association with Agag.

e). Of all the regions within Ahasuerus's kingdom that Haman could have come from, for it to have been Agag, given the association of that name with the Amalekites, is not just a coincidence.

11). And then if we keep in mind the one whom Haman typifies – the man of sin, the Antichrist, we can see this whole think brought together for us in the final prophecy of Balaam in –

Numbers 24:15

So he took up his oracle and said: "The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, And the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened; 16 The utterance of him who hears the words of God, And has the knowledge of the Most High, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open: 17 "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult. 18 "And Edom shall be a possession; Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession, While Israel does valiantly. 19 Out of Jacob One shall have dominion, And destroy the remains of the city." 20 Then he looked on Amalek, and he took up his oracle and said: "Amalek was first among the nations, But shall be last until he perishes."

- a). Balaam's prophecy is clearly dealing with that future time when Christ will return and establish His Millennial Kingdom.
- b). This is describing the time when the one Haman typifies, the Antichrist, will be put down and Gentile world power, the times of the Gentiles, will be completely overthrown.
- c). And linked with this overthrow of Gentile world power is a proclamation against Amalek – a group of people who will not have existed for millenniums before this time.
- d). Why? Because of what this people group represent – they represent all that which is set against the fulfillment of God's plans and purposes expressed through an anti-Semitism that looked for the utter destruction of the nation of Israel.
- e). The same Satanic driving force behind the Amalekites is the same as that which was behind Haman and is the same as that which will be behind Antichrist.

f). Therefore in the overthrow of Gentile world power and the establishment of the Kingdom of Christ all that Amalek represents will perish forever. And it is in this sense that Amalek, at this time, will cease to exist.

g). It might just be of interest that according to Hitchcock's Dictionary of Bible Names Haman = tumult. And according to verse 17 of our Balaam prophecy in Numbers, Christ, at His second coming, 'will destroy all the sons of tumult'.

12). And then if we go back to God's original command to Israel to utterly destroy Amalek, this is really what takes place at the end of the Tribulation, typified for us in the events in Esther.

a). It is as a result of Israel's repentance that Christ, a Jew in the flesh, will return to the earth and overthrow Gentile world power.... something we have already seen characterized as the perishing of Amalek.

b). It is in this sense that we can see the command of God given in Deuteronomy coming to its final and absolute conclusion.

c). And so it will be at the end of our story in Esther -

Esther 7:3

Then Queen Esther answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. 4 "For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss." 5 So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?" 6 And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!" So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

Esther 7:10

So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided.

Esther 9:5

Thus the Jews defeated all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, with slaughter and destruction, and did what they pleased with those who hated them. 6 And in Shushan the citadel the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. 7 Also Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, 8 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, 9 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vajezatha- 10 the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews-they killed; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder. 11 On that day the number of those who were killed in Shushan the citadel was brought to the king. 12 And the king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the citadel, and the ten sons of Haman.

Esther 9:3

And all the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and all those doing the king's work, helped the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. 4 For Mordecai was great in the king's palace, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai became increasingly prominent. 5 Thus the Jews defeated all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, with slaughter and destruction, and did what they pleased with those who hated them.

13). Here is the conclusion to which our world economically, environmentally, socially, politically and militarily is rapidly and inexorably moving. Let us thank God that we are not in ignorance of it and let the certainty of God's word in respect of this inspire us towards an even greater commitment to faithful obedience as we see the Day approaching.