

“The Time Of Trouble”
Esther 3:7-15

Introduction:

1. Let's Head Back To Esther Chapter 3 This Morning:
 - Where Last Sunday - We Were Reminded:
 - About Our Ancient Foe - The Devil Himself:
 - And How Like The Jews Before Their Ancient Enemy, Haman The Agagite:
 - We Are No Match For Our Ancient Foe - Unless God Himself Intervenes For Us!
 - But - As Paul Proclaims In 1 Corinthians 15:57:
 - We To Can Say - “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - Never Forget That Jesus Is The Only Solution – The Only Savior:
 - From Your Ancient Foe!
2. Well - In 3:6 - Wicked Haman Begins To Plot Out:
 - How He Can Take Revenge:
 - On Mordecai - And All Of His People!
 - “And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai!”
 - And In The Rest Of The Chapter - Haman Begins To Carry Out His Plan! And We Read This In:
 - 3:7-15 - Read Passage!
3. As We Read These Verses:
 - We Get A Sense That The Jews:
 - Are In Big Trouble!
 - That Their Lives Are Hanging In A Balance:
 - Of The Whims Of Wicked Men!
 - In Fact - Back In 3:7 - We Learn That The Plan:
 - For Their Extermination All Started:
 - When “They Cast Pure, That Is, The Lot, Before Haman From Day To Day, And From Month To Month!”
 - Haman Was A Gambling Man! But Here - He Was Gambling With The Lives Of People – God's People!
 - This Is How He Felt About God's People!
 - He Couldn't Care Less About Them!
4. I'm Sure - That When The News Of Haman's Plan:
 - Finally Reached The Jews:
 - They Wondered - What Is Going On? What Can We Do?
 - They Probably Felt Like Their Lives Were Now Being Driven By Fate!
 - But Had They Forgotten The Word Of God?
 - Centuries Earlier - God Inspired Solomon:
 - To Write Down His Wisdom For The Ages!
 - And In Proverbs 16:33 We Read This - “The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD!”
 - The Truth About This Entire Plan:
 - To Wipe Out God's People Can Be Summed Up:
 - In This Proverb!
 - Read Proverbs 16:33 Again!
5. God Never Leaves The Lives Of His People:
 - Up To Chance!
 - No Matter What Happens:
 - God Is Always In Control!
 - And Instead Of Fretting & Worrying - We Can - And We Must - Patiently Wait Upon The Lord To Work Out His Perfect Will & Plan In This World & In Our Lives!
 - You Can Trust In Him!
 - And As We Will See This Morning:
 - God Is Always In Control:
 - Even In The Time Of Trouble!

* God Is In Control Of:

1. *Your Time!*

- See This In 3:7 - Which Is A Verse That Is All About The Timing Of Haman's Plot To Kill The Jews:
 - "In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar!"
 - All This Took Place - When Esther Has Been Queen For A Little Over 4 Years Now!
 - And One Day In The First Month - Haman Had The "Pur" Or The "Lot" Cast To Figure Out The Best – The Luckiest – Day To Carry Out His Plan!
 - Not Sure What The "Pur" Was:
 - But "From Day To Day & From Month To Month" It Was Cast:
 - Starting From The First Day - All Throughout The Year!
 - We See From This That:
- Many Are Superstitious About Time!
 - Haman - Like Many In That Time - And Even Today:
 - Believed That There Are Lucky Days & Unlucky Days!
 - And So - He Held A Lottery - To Figure Out The Luckiest Day To Kill The Jews!
 - Not So "Lucky" For Them!
 - Really - This Is Always What Gambling Is About:
 - One Man's Luck Is Another Man's Loss!
 - Many Times - Its Just About Money!
 - This Time - It Was A Matter Of Life & Death!
 - But - Even Though Haman Thought He Had Finally:
 - Found His Lucky Day - The Truth Is This:
- God Is Sovereign Over Time!
 - Proverbs 16:33 - "The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD!"
 - Haman Was Probably Hoping That The Day To Destroy The Jews:
 - Would Be Sooner Rather Than Later!
 - But God - In His Providence:
 - Ensured That The Lot Landed In The Last Month Of The Year!
 - To Give His People Time To Prepare & To Once Again Show His Grace To His People & His Power To His Enemies!
- Never Forget That:
 - God Is In Control Of Your Time:
 - As Well!
 - David Understood This:
 - When He Too Felt Like The Whole World Was Against Him!
 - Psalm 31:15 - "For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life. / But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God. / My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me!"
 - No Matter What You Face:
 - Your Times Are In The Hand Of The Lord!
 - He Is In Complete Control Of Your Birth / Your Life / Your Death!
 - And You Can Trust Him:
 - No Matter What Happens In:
 - The Time Of Your Life!
 - We Also See That:

* God Is In Control Of:

2. **Your Treatment!**

- See This In 3:8 - When Haman Shamelessly Approaches The King:
 - With His Plan - "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!"
 - This Is Such A Fascinating Verse:
 - Because - At No Time Does Haman Tell The King That The People He Wants To Destroy Are The Jews! Very "Vague!"
 - Instead - He Shamelessly:
- Misrepresents The Truth:
 - About God's People!
 - Matthew Henry Describes This Verse As - "A False & Malicious Representation!"
 - In Today's Terms - Haman Was A Master At "Fake News!"

- He Describes God's People As:
 - A Despicable People!
 - Being - "Scattered Abroad & Dispersed!"
 - Describing Them As Little More Than Pests & Vermin That Need To Be Exterminated From The Kingdom!
 - And Yet - Was This Entirely True?
 - No - Because - About 50 Years Earlier - Under Cyrus The Great - Many Of God's People Were Able To Go Home & To Rebuild The Temple Of The Lord!
 - But The Truth Didn't Matter To Haman!
 - Just His Rage Against God & His People!
 - Further Describes Them As:
 - A Different People!
 - "Their Laws Are Diverse From All People!"
 - Not Just Different - But Strange - And Even A Little Bit Weird - According To Haman!
 - And Yet - Was This Entirely True?
 - No - Even Though They Stood Out From The People With Their Law:
 - Whose Law Was It?
 - God's Law!
 - And What Kind Of Law Is It?
 - Romans 7:12 - "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good!" - Also Describes Them As:
 - A Disobedient People!
 - "Neither Keep They The King's Laws!"
 - But Was This Entirely True?
 - No! Didn't We Just See Mordecai & Esther Obeying His Law:
 - To Have Esther Join In His Beauty Competition?
 - And Didn't Mordecai Recently:
 - Show His Loyalty To The King:
 - By Reporting The Treason Of Two Of His Own Guards?
 - The Jews - In Accordance With God's Law:
 - Were To "Fear God & Honor The King!"
 - Yet - It Is Not Uncommon For The World:
 - To Continue to Misrepresent God's People:
 - As Despicable / Different / Disobedient!
 - They Are Trying To Get You To Fit Into Their Mold! Compromise!
 - And The Main Reason Why Is Because:
 - Like Haman - The World:
 - Misunderstands The Truth:
 - About God's People!
 - 3:8 - Haman Tells The King - "Therefore It Is Not For The King's Profit To Suffer Them!"
 - Haman Believed They Were Useless & Worthless To The King & The Kingdom!
 - Yet - Again - Not True!
 - In Genesis 12:3 - One Of God's Promises To Abraham - "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed!"
 - The Truth Was & Still Is:
 - God's People Are A Blessing To The World!
 - And Yet - The World Continues To:
 - Mistreat God's People & Misrepresent God's People:
 - Because They Misunderstand The Truth About God's People!
 - So - Never Forget That:
 - God Is In Control Of Your Treatment:
 - As Well!
 - John 15:18-19 - "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. / If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you!"
 - God Knows How You Will Be Treated!
 - And Ultimately, God Is Even In Control When You Are Mistreated!
 - But You Can Trust Him:
 - No Matter How You Are Treated:

- When You Are Misrepresented!
- When You Are Misunderstood!
- We Also See That:

* God Is In Control Of:

3. Your Troubles!

- See This In 3:9-11 - "If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries. / And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy. / And the king said unto Haman, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee!"
 - In These Verses - Haman Continues To Manipulate:
 - The King - To Accomplish His Plan Against The Jews!
 - And He Was A Master Manipulator!
 - He Focused On What The King Cared About - In Order To Get What He Cared About & Wanted!
 - And In The Process:
 - The Value & The Lives Of People – God's People:
 - Were Unimportant!
 - How Many Times Does Trouble Come At:
- The Whims & The Pleasure:
 - Of Others?
 - Haman Said - "If It Please The King!" (3:9)
 - The King Said - "Do With Them As It Seemeth Good To Thee!" (3:11)
 - They Cared Nothing For:
 - The People Whose Lives Hung In The Balance Of Their Wills!
 - And The Result Would Be:
 - Trouble & Tribulation For God's People!
 - Trouble Also Often Comes Because Of:
- The Wealth & The Prosperity:
 - Of Others!
 - And Their Greed!
 - Haman Cared About Revenge!
 - The King Cared About Money!
 - And So - Haman Offers 10,000 Talents Of Silver:
 - To The King - Almost An Entire Year's Revenue For The Empire - To:
 - "Bring It Into The King's Treasuries!"
 - The King Could Do A Lot:
 - With That Money!
 - And So - He Permitted Haman To Do Whatever He Wanted!
 - And The Result Would Be:
 - Trouble & Tribulation For God's People!
 - 3:11 - "And the king said unto Haman, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee!"
 - To The King - The People Were Just An Afterthought!
- But - Can God Still Be:
 - In Control Of Our Trials:
 - As Well?
 - Even When They Hang In The Balance Of The Whims & The Greed Of Others?
 - Remember Joseph?
 - Genesis 50:20 - "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good!"
 - Remember Jesus?
 - Acts 2:23 - "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain!"
 - Yes - God Is Still In Control Of:
 - Any Trial - Any Trouble - You Will Ever Face!
- And You Can Trust In Him!
 - Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose!"
 - Also See That:

* God Is Even In Control Of:

4. Your Termination!

- See This In 3:12-14 - "Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring. / 13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, [Whatever It Takes!] all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey. / 14 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day!"

- In These Verses - Haman's Plan Is Now Set In Motion!

- And We See What The Destruction & Termination:

- Of The Jews Would Be Like:

- It Was To Be Certain!

- It Became An Edict Of The Empire!

- One That Could Not Be Revoked!

- It Was "Sealed With The King's Ring!" (3:12)

- It Was To Be Comprehensive!

- The Law Was Sent All Throughout The Empire!

- From Ethiopia To India - 127 Provinces!

- Including The Area Known As The Land Of Israel!

- And The Famous Persian Postal System:

- Was Once Again Put Into Use:

- **IE:** Even As Their Motto - "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds!"

- But As Word Of This New Law Spread:

- It Was Confusing!

- 3:15 - "The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed!"

- What A Sad Contrast!

- After The Decree Was Sent Out:

- The King & Haman:

- "Sat Down To Drink!"

- Like Nero Fiddling While Rome Burns!

- While - The People - Especially:

- "The City Of Sushan Was Perplexed!"

- Confused! Concerned!

- Perhaps Still A Conscience In Many Of Them!

- They Likely Knew Many Jews:

- Who Were Similar To Mordecai In Character!

- Now - Told - Commanded - To Kill Them All!

- But There Was One Major Thing:

- That Haman Did Not Know!

- And That Was - He Could Not Destroy The Jews Even Though He Wanted To! No Matter How Hard He Would Try!

- For Jesus - The Messiah - Had Not Yet Come!

- And God Was - Still - "Standing In The Shadows, Keeping Watch Above His Own!"

- So - Even When Your "Termination" Is In View:

- Whether It Is A Natural Death Or A Violent Death:

- You Can Know That God Is Still In Control!

- And Gives You Hope!

- Luke 18:29-30 - "And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, / Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting!"

- So - You Can Trust Him - Even If / When Your Life Is Threatened!

Conclusion:

1. Never Forget That - God Never Leaves The Lives Of His People:

- Up To Chance!

- No Matter What Happens:
 - God Is Always In Control!
- He Is In Control Of:
 - Your Time!
 - Your Treatment!
 - Your Troubles!
 - Even Your Termination!
- And So - You Don't Need To Live Your Life:
 - Like The People Of Shushan:
 - Who Were "Perplexed!"
- 2. In Fact - John Tells Us To - "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you!" (1 John 3:13)
 - You Don't Need To Be Perplexed / Confused:
 - Because Jesus Himself Knows All About It!
 - Again - John 15:18-19 - "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. / If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you!"
- 3. In Fact - Jesus Himself - Experienced Everything:
 - That The Jews Were Facing:
 - And That You Might Face - And More!
 - Think About His Time!
 - And How - Like Haman - Judas - "Sought Opportunity To Betray" Jesus! (Matthew 26:26)
 - Gambling With Jesus Life - Cared Nothing For Him!
 - Think About His Treatment!
 - And How - Like Haman - "Many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together!" (Mark 14:56)
 - Misrepresenting Jesus Because They Misunderstood Jesus!
 - Think About His Troubles!
 - And How - Like Haman - "The soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. / And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. / And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! / And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. / And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him!" (Matthew 27:27-31)
 - The Torture & Pain That Jesus Endured!
 - Not For His Own Sin - But For The Sins Of Others - Mine - Yours!
 - Think About His Termination!
 - And How - Like Haman - Jesus "Was Taken, And By Wicked Hands [Was] Crucified And Slain!" (Acts 2:23)
- 4. But All Of This Was Still:
 - According To The - "Determinate Counsel And Foreknowledge Of God!"
 - Through It All - God Was Still In Control!
 - He Proved This - When "Death Could Not Keep It Pray" & When "He Tore The Bars Away!"
 - And Jesus Rose From The Dead!
 - And Jesus Went Through All Of This:
 - To "Save His People From Their Sins!" (Matthew 1:21)
 - And So That You Can Trust Him:
 - No Matter What You Face In Your Life In This World!
 - Psalm 37:39 - "But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble!"

* "Only Trust Him!"

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com