

Undiluted Evil

HAMAN SEEKS TO

DESTROY

THE JEWS



Esther 3:7-15

In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, they cast the 'pur' (that is, the lot) in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar. Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom whose customs are different from those of all other people and who do not obey the king`s laws; it is not in the king`s best interest to tolerate them. If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will put ten thousand talents of silver into the royal treasury for the men who carry out this business." So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. "Keep the money," the king said to Haman, "and do with the people as you please."



Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman`s orders to the king`s satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring. Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king`s provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews--young and old, women and little children--on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so they would be ready for that day. Spurred on by the king`s command, the couriers went out, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was bewildered.

A day of evil

In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, they cast the 'pur' (that is, the lot) in the presence of Haman to select a day and month.

The Persian name for a lot is 'pur' .
- plural purim

It started at the time Israel remembered their deliverance from Egypt!



Ephesians 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,

Superstition – a lucky day

and they cast it **month after month till** the twelfth month,
the month of Adar.

13th Adar – It's my **LUCKY** Day !



God's sovereign overruling

and they cast it month after month till the twelfth month,
the month of Adar.



cf. Jonah

An eleven month's delay

- This allows time for a response.

Proverbs 6:33 : The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the LORD.

Defamation of character

Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom

They are a 'certain people' – nobodies really (just a few?)

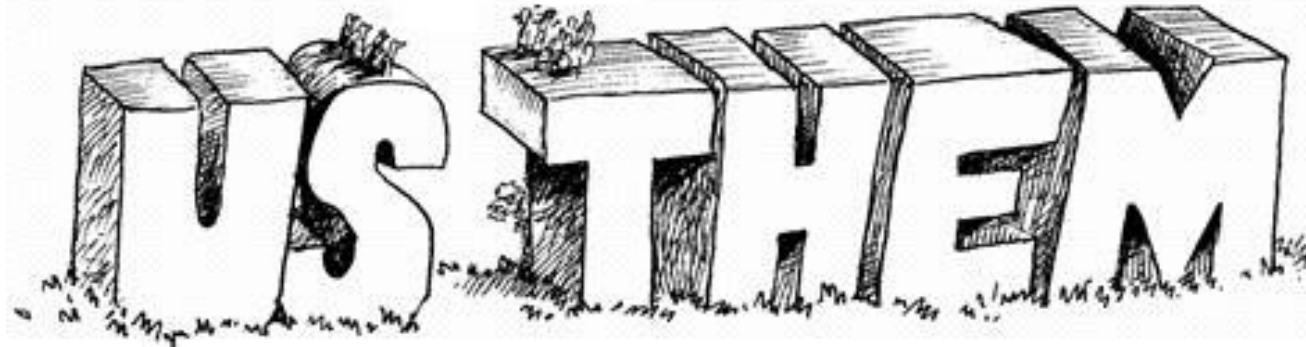
They've got everywhere.

Not many had returned to the land of Israel.



They are different – half a truth

whose customs are different from those of all other people
and who do not obey the king`s laws;



They are disobedient

- another lie – just because Mordechai won't worship Haman!

Having recently lost the war the Jews would also provide a convenient group to blame!

it is not in the king`s best interest to tolerate them.

They are spoiling your reign

Your toleration (good king!) is not good for you!

Intolerable

Not tolerable; not capable of being borne or endured; not proper or right to be allowed; insufferable; insupportable; unbearable; as, intolerable pain; intolerable heat or cold; an intolerable burden.

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Life is cheap! Destroy!

If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them,



What you should do!

Notice Haman's deference
– 'if it pleases the king'

My idea becomes your idea.

and I will put ten thousand talents of silver
into the royal treasury for the men who carry out this business.

It won't cost you – I'll pay
(to be collected from the loot!)

Evil usually finds the funding.

It's a very large sum. Also known as a bribe – just in case the king hesitates



The king agrees

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



The Signet ring makes royal signatures

Power is in the hands of Haman

– full name = Amalekite, **the enemy**

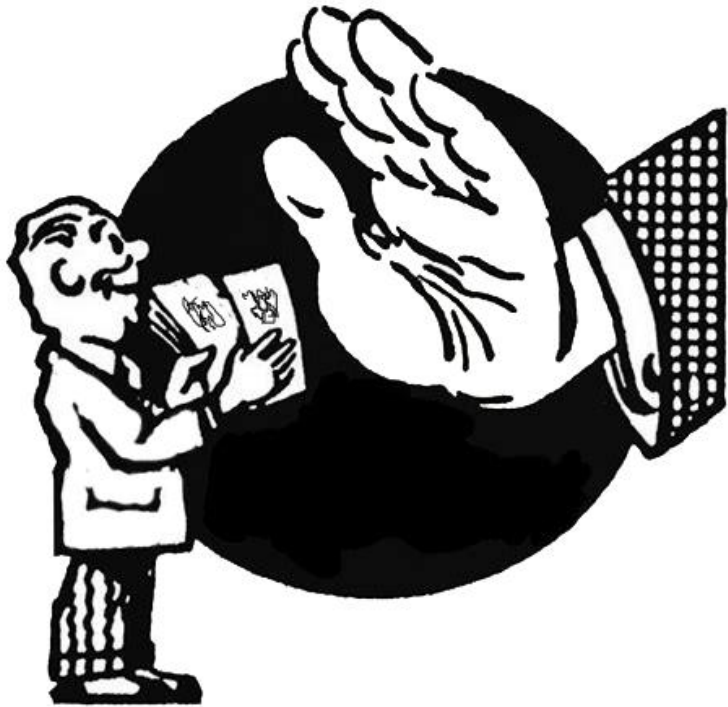
(hostile, unrepentant hatred = the wicked)



It's my signature – I'll pay

"Keep the money," the king said to Haman,
"and do with the people as you please."

*I don't want
your money!*



(the loot can go to the treasury!)

Go ahead with your plan.

It would have pleased him!

No delay – Haman’s lucky number

Then on the **thirteenth** day of the first month
the royal secretaries were summoned.

These are the ‘civil servants’ - linguists

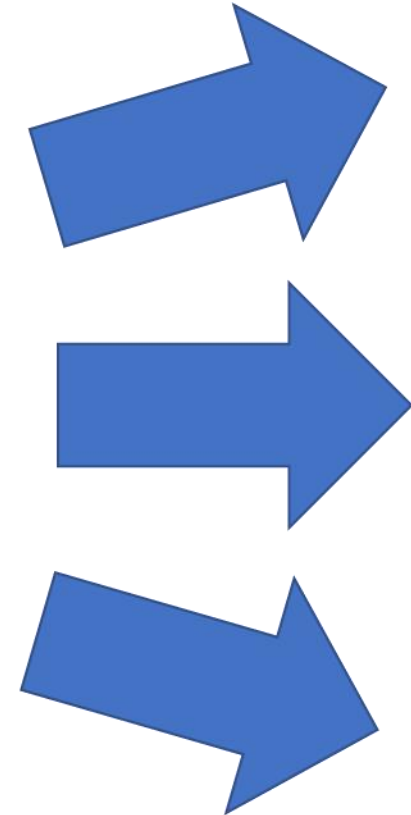
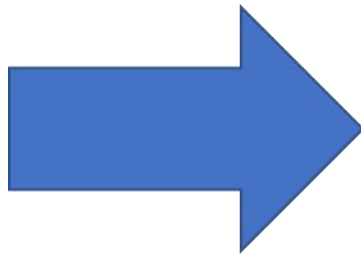
Get it written into law
- so that it can’t be altered
So there can be no chance of
things going wrong!



He dictated – they translated

They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman`s orders to the king`s satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples.

Orders for the provincial leaders



Finally – the official signature

These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself
and sealed with his own ring.



Once it is in writing



it's the law of the Medes and Persians !
Daniel 6:8

Persian post!

Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces

Their fastest delivery service – Horses.

“Along the whole line of road there are men stationed with horses. The first man delivers his despatch to the second, and the second passes it to the third; and so it is borne from hand to hand along the whole line.”

Herodotus



Satan inspired heartless malice

with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews
-young and old, women and little children-

Here is the detail:-

Destroy
Kill
Annihilate

All the Jews, showing no pity to the
weak and vulnerable – all of them.



D-Day

-on a single day,
the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar,

Just one day - the matter is urgent
– they would all be acting together
– it's easier to sin with a crowd

The 12th month of the Hebrew calendar -
February -March



Money, money, money!

and to plunder their goods.

Envy and greed provided a 'good' financial incentive.

Cf. Nazi looters!



A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so they would be ready for that day.



**EVERYONE
SHOULD
KNOW
ABOUT IT!**

They can all understand.
There are no exceptions.

This would also 'flush out' the enemies.
– it was safe to be antisemitic in that situation.

Spurred on by the king's command, the couriers went out,
and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa.

The edict went out far and wide
– and also in the local area too



It's BAD news for Jews



Callous or Confused

The king and Haman sat down to drink,
but the city of Susa was bewildered.

They appear to be utterly careless of
what they've done.

Did Xerxes have any idea as to what he
had agreed to?


The population was bewildered

What is all this about?

It suggests they weren't all Jew-haters.

Is their fate sealed? Haman thought so.





There is no wisdom, no insight,
no plan that can succeed against the LORD.
- Proverbs 21:30