

*For such
a time as this.*



Esther 2v19-4v17

TWO PLOTS

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*“The Christian persecution we read about in Scripture and history books is not a thing of the past. It still exists. Today, in the 21st century, we are living in a time when persecution against Christian believers is the highest in modern history. According to an in-depth report — research indicates **that every day, 12 Christian believers are killed for their faith.**”*

Open Doors

Last week: Two Queens...

- The Fall of Queen Vashti
- The Rise of Queen Esther

The hidden hand of God

Last week: Two Queens...

- The Fall of Queen Vashti
- The Rise of Queen Esther

This week: Two Plots...

- The Plot to Assassinate Xerxes
- The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

1) The Plot to Assassinate Xerxes

2v21: During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.

1) The Plot to Assassinate Xerxes

2v22: Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai.

1) The Plot to Assassinate Xerxes

2v23: And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were impaled on poles. All this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.



2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

3v1: After these events, King Xerxes honoured Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honour higher than that of all the other nobles.



2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

3v1: After these events, King Xerxes honoured **Haman** son of Hammedatha, the **Agagite**, elevating him and giving him a seat of honour higher than that of all the other nobles.

TROUBLE

2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

3v2: All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honour to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honour.

2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

3v5: When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honour, he was enraged.

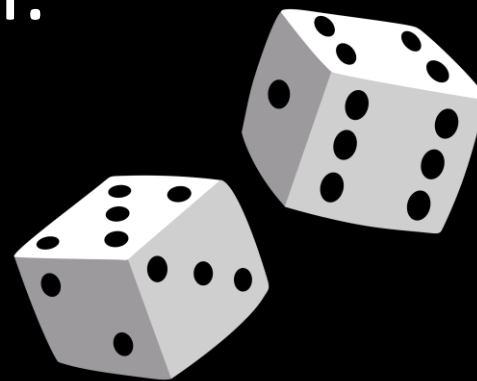


2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

3v6: Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

3v7: In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the *pur* (that is, the lot) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar.



2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

13/12/474 BC

2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

13/12/474 BC

Destruction of every living Jew

2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

3v13: 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 children – on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar...

2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

3v15: The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was bewildered.



Cheers

2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

3v15: The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was bewildered.

*Will we hide
or
will we stand?*



Cheers

2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

3v12: Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned.



2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

3v15: The king and Haman sat down to drink...

4v3: In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

4v5: Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

4v8: ...he told him to instruct her to go into the King's presence to beg for mercy and to plead with him for her people



2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

V11: 'All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold sceptre to them and spares their lives.



2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

V13-14: 'Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?'

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2) The Plot to Annihilate the Jews

4v15-16: Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ 'Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.'

Our saviour identifies with us...

- As humans...

Heb 2v11: Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters

Our saviour identifies with us...

- As humans...
- As sinners

2 Cor 5v21: God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

For such a saviour...

Rom 1v16: I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

NOT 
ASHAMED

