

# NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

## Esther- Part 2

When we ended our last lesson, Esther had just been crowned Queen of Persia. Now, remember how we said that Mordechai, Queen Esther's cousin, worked at the palace gates? Well, one day Mordechai overheard 2 men, Bigthan and Teresh, who worked for the King, plotting to kill him! He immediately told Queen Esther, who reported it to the King. The 2 men were put to death and the King had it written in the Book of the Chronicles (kind of like a diary for the King) that Mordechai had been the one to warn him. This detail becomes important later in the story.

In Esther chapter 3, our final main character, Haman, comes on the scene. Haman, who worked for the King, was promoted to the highest position in the King's court. The King commanded that the people of Persia bow to Haman, but Mordechai refused. Last time, we explained that Haman was an Amalekite, a race of people who were sworn enemies of the Jews. Haman was very, very angry that Mordechai would not bow to him. The fact that he was also Jewish caused Haman not only to hate Mordechai, but also to seek a way to kill him and all of the Jews!

Haman was very crafty, so he convinced the King that all of the Jewish people in the Persian Empire needed to be killed. He told him that they did not follow his laws, they were troublemakers, and it was in the King's best interest to get rid of them. The King agreed with Haman and told him to let all the people in Persia know what day they were allowed to kill the Jews and take all of their possessions. Haman cast lots, like rolling a pair of dice, to pick the day and then sent out the orders.

**Esther 3:13 *"Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods."***

You may be thinking, "WHAT?! How could the King agree to have all of the Jews killed? Both his Queen and her cousin, the man who just warned him about the plot to kill him, are Jewish?!" Well, Haman never mentioned which group of people he wanted killed and Queen Esther did not tell anyone in the palace that she was Jewish, because Mordechai had instructed her not to. So, the King did not know that he had just sent out orders for the Queen and her people to be murdered.

A couple of reminders from last lesson: 1- Once the King gave an official order or command, it could not be cancelled or taken back. 2- King Xerxes was known for taking bad advice. This is a perfect example of that, do you agree?

Let us ask you some questions. Do you think it was all Haman's idea to persecute the Jewish people? If not, who could have motivated Haman and why? We know that Satan hates God, right? We also know that he does not want God to be glorified and will do anything he can to prevent it. Who and what in history brought the most glory to God, revealing just how amazing He is? The answer is Jesus Christ and His saving work on the Cross. There is no other person and no other event in all of human history that brought more glory to God than this. The Cross of Jesus Christ is where the love of God was revealed to His creation. God, the Son, became a man, then was judged for the sins of His children, so they would be able to have an eternal relationship with God.



**John 3:16** *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

If Satan could bring about the end of the Jewish line before Jesus Christ was born, God's salvation plan would be destroyed. If this happened, God would be a liar. You see, the events of the Cross and the salvation of God's people are foretold throughout the Old Testament. If the Cross did not happen, God's promises would be left unfulfilled.

Since God is perfect, omniscient (knows everything), and omnipotent (all powerful), there was no way that He was going to let any of that happen. So, once again, He had a plan to save the day! This should be a comfort to you as you live your own life.

God has promised that if you are His child, you will always be. God also promises that He will always love us and will always take care of us. God always keeps His promises...ALWAYS!

**John 10:28-30** *“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”*

**Psalms 136:26** *“Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever.”*

**Romans 8:38-39** *“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*