



### II. REACTION TO EVIL – Esther 3:7 – 4:3 (GWT)

<sup>7</sup>In Xerxes' twelfth year as king, *Pur* (which means *the lot*) was thrown in front of Haman for every day of every month, from Nisan, the first month, until Adar, the twelfth month. <sup>8</sup>Now, Haman told King Xerxes, "Your Majesty, there is a certain nationality scattered among—but separate from—the nationalities in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws differ from those of all other nationalities. They do not obey your decrees. So it is not in your interest to tolerate them, Your Majesty. <sup>9</sup>If you approve, have the orders for their destruction be written. For this I will pay 750,000 pounds of silver to your treasurers to be put in your treasury." <sup>10</sup>At that, the king removed his signet ring and gave it to Haman, the enemy of the Jews. (Haman was the son of Hammedatha and was from Agag.) <sup>11</sup>The king told Haman, "You can keep your silver and do with the people whatever you like." <sup>12</sup>On the thirteenth day of the first month the king's scribes were summoned. All Haman's orders were written to the king's satraps, the governors of every province, and the officials of every people. They wrote to each province in its own script and to the people in each province in their own language. The orders were signed in the name of King Xerxes and sealed with the king's ring. <sup>13</sup>Messengers were sent with official documents to all the king's provinces. The people were ordered to wipe out, kill, and destroy all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. Their possessions were also to be seized. <sup>14</sup>A copy of the document was made public in a decree to every province. All the people were to be ready for this day. <sup>15</sup>The messengers hurried out as the king told them. The decree was also issued at the fortress of Susa. So the king and Haman sat down to drink a toast, but the city of Susa was in turmoil. <sup>1</sup>When Mordecai found out about everything that had been done, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes. He went into the middle of the city and cried loudly and bitterly. <sup>2</sup>He even went right up to the king's gate. (No one could enter it wearing sackcloth.) <sup>3</sup>In every province touched by the king's command and decree, the Jews went into mourning, fasting, weeping, and wailing. Many put on sackcloth and ashes.

[How do we respond to evil today; is there still a place in Christianity for prayer and fasting?](#)

### III. COURAGEOUS ACTION – Esther 4:4 – 5:8 (GWT)

<sup>4</sup>Esther's servants and eunuchs came and informed her about Mordecai. The queen was stunned. She sent clothing for Mordecai to put on in place of his sackcloth, but he refused to accept it.

<sup>5</sup>Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs appointed to serve her. She commanded him to go to Mordecai and find out what was going on and why. <sup>6</sup>So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square in front of the king's gate.

<sup>7</sup>Mordecai informed him about everything that had happened to him. He told him the exact amount of silver that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasury to destroy the Jews. <sup>8</sup>He also gave him a copy of the decree that was issued in Susa. The decree gave permission to exterminate the Jews. Hathach was supposed to show it to Esther to inform and command her to go to the king, beg him for mercy, and appeal to him for her people. <sup>9</sup>So Hathach returned and told Esther what Mordecai had said. <sup>10</sup>Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to say to Mordecai, <sup>11</sup>"All the king's advisers and the people in the king's provinces know that no one approaches the king in the throne room without being summoned. By law that person must be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to him will he live. I, myself, have not been summoned to enter the king's presence for 30 days now."

<sup>12</sup>So Esther's servants told Mordecai what Esther said. <sup>13</sup>Mordecai sent this answer back to Esther, "Do not imagine that just because you are in the king's palace you will be any safer than all the rest of the Jews. <sup>14</sup>The fact is, even if you remain silent now, someone else will help and rescue the Jews, but you and your relatives will die. And who knows, you may have gained your royal position for a time like this."

<sup>15</sup>Esther sent this reply back to Mordecai, <sup>16</sup>"Assemble all the Jews in Susa. Fast for me: Do not eat or drink at all for three entire days. My servants and I will also fast. After that, I will go to the king, even if it is against a royal decree. If I die, I die."

<sup>17</sup>Mordecai did just as Esther had commanded him. <sup>1</sup>On the third day Esther put on her royal robes. She stood in the courtyard of the king's palace, facing the king's throne room. The king was sitting on the royal throne inside the palace, facing the entrance. <sup>2</sup>When the king saw Queen Esther standing in the entrance, she won his favor. So the king held out the golden scepter that was in his hand to Esther. Esther went up to him and touched the top of the scepter. <sup>3</sup>Then the king asked her, "What is troubling you, Queen Esther? What would you like? Even if it is up to half of the kingdom, it will be granted to you." <sup>4</sup>So Esther answered, "If it pleases you, Your Majesty, come today with Haman to a dinner I have prepared for you." <sup>5</sup>The king replied, "Bring Haman right away, and do whatever Esther asks." So the king and Haman came to the dinner that Esther had prepared. <sup>6</sup>While they were drinking wine, the king asked Esther, "What is your request? It will be granted to you. What would you like? Even if it is up to half of the kingdom, it will be granted." <sup>7</sup>Esther answered, "My request? What would I like? <sup>8</sup>Your Majesty, come with Haman to a dinner I will prepare for you. And tomorrow I will answer you, Your Majesty. If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, Your Majesty, may you then grant my request and do what I would like."

[What was Mordecai's attitude toward Esther? How would you describe his faith in God's ability to deliver?](#)