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### Genealogies

- Each generation replays the previous generation, but we are given time to correct the negative consequences.
- 2:5 – Mordecai, son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite.
- 1 Sam. 9:1-2 – Saul, son of Kish, a Benjaminite.
- 1 Sam 15:9 – Saul spared Agag, an Amalekite. (Haman is a descendant of Agag).

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### Haman plots against the Jews

- The book of Esther is more than the chronicle of an event in Persia of long ago, it is really a story of the struggle between God and Satan, between good and evil, for all time.
- 3:2-4 Haman is a king's official who presided at the "gate", the same place where Mordecai also presided. Everyone was to bow down to Haman.
- Mordecai refused. Why? According to tradition, Haman had an image of himself on his belt.

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### Haman plots against the Jews

- Mordecai is protesting! His friends urge him to obey, but he refuses. He will not bow down to a graven image.
- Something in our DNA gives us the inherent desire to worship.
- Rulers have exploited this to have their own images worshiped.




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### Haman plots against the Jews

- 3:5-6 – Haman doesn't just want to harm Mordecai, he wants to harm all the Jewish people.
- Haman believes the culture of the Jews is poisoning everyone. All of them will think they have the right to protest.
- Haman is not the first whose pride encourages him to annihilate the people of God. He comes from a whole family who desire to do that.
- What false narratives had Haman heard from his parents about the Jews? How do we pass on our own prejudices?

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### Haman plots against the Jews

- One of the things that Esther teaches us is that the downfall of anyone is pride – the desire to receive for self alone.
- All of us have a desire to receive, but for self alone, or for the purpose of sharing with others.
- The same hatred that drove Haman also drove Hitler.
- The story of salvation is the story of continuous attacks of evil to destroy the people of God and thus the plan of redemption.

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**Haman plots against the Jews**

- 3:7 – Haman “cast lots” (Pur) each month for a year. He wants to find the best time when the people of God are most vulnerable.
- He ends up choosing Adar, the 12<sup>th</sup> month, which is the month just before Passover.
- 3:8-9 - Haman tells the king. He represents the Jews as outsiders, as bad for the kingdom. His main complaint: They are different!
- Haman’s hatred for the Jews means he will pay a fortune for their destruction.

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**Haman plots against the Jews**

- 3:8-12 – Haman is given permission to do as he sees fit.
- In Persian law, a law cannot be broken. Later on, the king is going to want to save the Jewish people, but he cannot undo the law he made.
- God’s law: “The wages of sin is death.” So God, who wants to save us, has to find a way to work around that law.
- The Jews are to be destroyed on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of Adar.
- 3:12-15 – The decree goes out in all the languages of the nation.

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**Esther Agrees to Help the Jews**

- 4:1-9 – Mordecai gets a message to Esther with the request that she should go to the king and make supplication.
- 4:10-11 – The queen cannot approach the king unless she is summoned. The king must point his scepter to give her life.
- The word “Scepter” is a code word for Messiah.
- Gen. 49:10 – The “scepter” shall not depart from Judah.
- Num. 24:17 – A vision of Messiah – the “scepter” shall rise out of Israel.

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**Esther Agrees to Help the Jews**

- In the Targum (Aramaic paraphrase of the Bible) says about Num. 24:17: "Kings shall arise out of Jacob and the **Messiah** will be anointed from Israel, and reign over all nations."
- 4:12-14 – "For such a time as this": Esther has been wearing a mask. Now is the time to take it off. That is why she is there – The thumbprint of God.
- What mask am I wearing that should come off? What have I been silent about and now is the time to speak out?

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**Esther Agrees to Help the Jews**

- 4:15-17 – Ester tells them to fast and pray before she enters into the presence of the King.
- 5:1-2 – On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day she approached, and the king held out his scepter, so she can go to him and intercede on behalf of her people.
- She dresses properly – a picture of the high priest dressed in his robes before going into the Holy of Holies.
- 5:4 – Esther wants to have a banquet in honor of the King and he should bring Haman.

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