

## Esther 2:21-3:6

<sup>2:21</sup> During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthana and Teresh - two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. <sup>22</sup> But Mordecai heard about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai.. <sup>23</sup> And when the report was investigated, and found to be true, the two officials were hanged on a gallows. All this was recorded in The Book of the annals in the presence of the king.

<sup>3:1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?" <sup>4</sup> Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply. Therefore they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behaviour would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew.

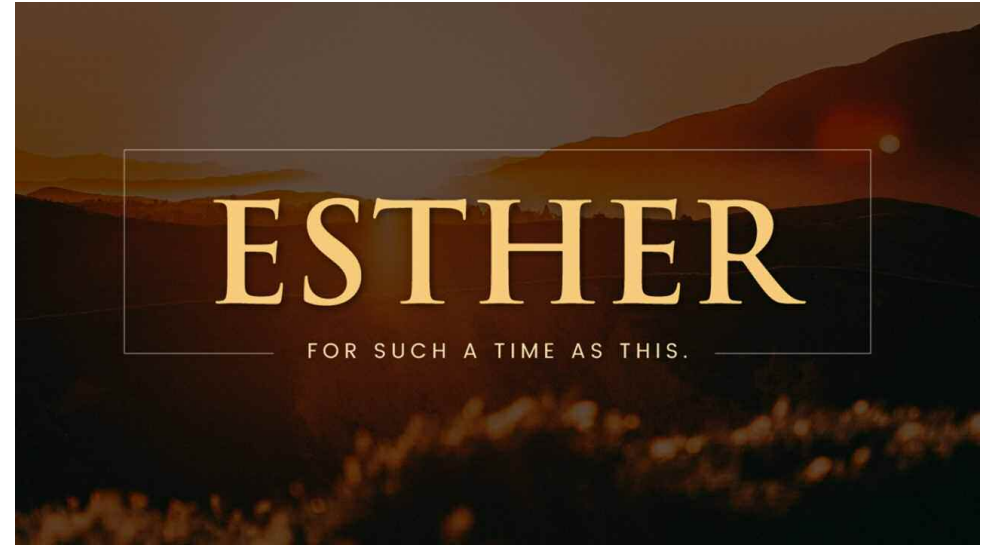
<sup>5</sup> When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honour, he was enraged. <sup>6</sup> Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing".

### Edmund Burke 1729-1787

Irish statesman, and British MP.

Burke believed in the importance of the Church for the moral stability and good of the state.



*Who knows but that you have come to your royal position  
for such a time as this?  
Esther 4:4*

1. God moves in a mysterious way
2. Living a Grace Filled Life
3. Overcoming Evil

Esther 1:1-22

Esther 2:1-18

**Esther 2:19-3:6**

## Overcoming Evil 2:21-3:6

We have the Gospel and the presence of Jesus in our lives, that enables us to...

### THE SOURCE OF SUFFERING AND EVIL

The problem of sin:

The tendency of mankind is to \_\_\_\_\_ sin

God knew -

-

-

Romans 5:8 God demonstrates his own love for us in this:

### CONFRONTED WITH EVIL

v.21-23 Background on Bigthana & Teresh:

The risk to Mordecai:

3:1 After these events, King Xerxes honoured Haman \_\_\_\_\_

### OVERCOMING EVIL

Haman's response to Mordecai not bowing down to him:

v.3:1 Haman was the son of Hammedatha, the \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to King Agag of the Amalekites, back in 1 Sam 15

Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with \_\_\_\_\_  
First steps to overcoming evil:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Read Esther 2:21-3:6

1. How well do you think this passage relates to the present day? Explain.

2. Ravi Zacharias once said, "When you violate God's law there is a moment of judgement that comes, and part of that judgement is suffering, pain, grief. He goes on to explain that this often comes in the form of disease, an invading army, and the elements. What do you think of this statement?"

3. Dealing with the problem of sin is the greatest need in the world. Why do you think mankind minimises sin?

4. It seems that Mordecai was one of the officials that "sat at the King's gate". He therefore probably saw Bigthana and Teresh most days in his life. In reporting their conspiracy to the king, what kind of risk do you think he was taking?

5. There is often a reluctance to 'get involved' in someone else's troubles. Especially if our involvement is going to cost us something (that could be: time, reputation, financially, friendships etc). Why do you think this is?

Read Edmund Burke's quote (back cover): What do you think?

6. Mordecai didn't get any recognition for doing the right thing. In fact, Esther 3:1 tells us that it was Haman who got the 'promotion'. Has there been a time in your life when you felt hard done by? When someone else got the praise, or the promotion etc., when you thought it should have been you? If so, how did it make you feel?

7. Haman's evil intentions towards the Jews probably stems back to long standing grudges, hatred and prejudice of his people towards Israel. His forefather, King Agag, was killed by the prophet Samuel, and his people routed by the Jews (see 1 Sam 15). How is hatred and prejudice handed down from generation to generation?

8. Read Romans 12:17-21. What should be our response to evil, according to this passage?

9. Peter gave four steps to overcoming evil. What were they? Think about each one. Which is the one you need to concentrate on in your life right now?