

## **Haman's Plot against the Jews (I wrote)**

**When we left King Xerxes and Queen Esther last week.**

**We heard about an assassination plot against King Xerxes.**

**Mordecai, Queen Esther's cousin had learned of this assassination plot and warned Queen Esther.**

**Queen Esther had gone to King Xerxes and told him.**

**After this plot was investigated, the two men were hung on a gallows and died.**

**Now usually when someone does something like this for the king, they receive a special reward from the king.**

**But in this circumstance, Mordecai received nothing.**

**I don't know if the king simply forgot to give Mordecai a reward, or if the king was so upset over the assassination attempt that he wasn't**

**thinking straight, or why exactly Mordecai was overlooked...but he was.**

**Mordecai, however... did not complain...he did not ask for a reward...he did not do anything EXCEPT go right back to work protecting the king.**

**In the meantime however, the King promoted a man named Haman to a high position within the kings palace.**

**This position really should have gone to Mordecai but it didn't.**

**Now Haman was a nasty...mean man. And all the men at the gate bowed down and paid homage to him...all of the EXCEPT for Mordecai.**

**Mordecai only bowed and paid homage to God.**

**He was not going to pay homage or bow to a common man.**

**Day after day...Mordecai refused to bow to Haman and day after day...Haman became angrier and angrier.**

**When it was discovered that Mordecai was a Jew...Haman's blood began to boil...Haman hated all Jews.**

**Haman knew that it would be hard to punish Mordecai because of all the other Jewish people in Susa so Haman began to plot against ALL the JEWS.**

**Little did he know that the King's own wife...Queen Esther was a Jew as well.**

**Haman went to King Xerxes and said "There is a certain people scattered throughout all the provinces of your kingdom;**

**their laws are different from those of all other people,**

**and they do not observe the king's laws, so it is not in the king's interest to let them remain."**

**"If it is pleasing to the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed.**

**If you do this, I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to be put into the king's treasuries."**

**King Xerxes, not even knowing who the people were, or even that his own wife and her family would be massacred as well....gave Haman his signet ring and told him to do as he wished.**

**Haman rushed from the palace and gathered all the king's scribes together.**

**As Haman spoke, the scribes wrote down every word that he said.**

**When Haman was finished, the letter was folded, wax was dripped onto the letter and Haman pressed the king's ring down into the wax, making the law irreversible.**

**This new law that Haman had just sealed stated that every Jew; every man, woman and child, was to be destroyed, killed and annihilated.**

**Immediately carriers were sent out with the new law... it was distributed through the nation and every Jewish man, woman and child began to shake with fear.**

**As the law was being distributed, Haman sat down with King Xerxes to share a drink and celebrate.**

**When Mordecai learned all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes and went out into the midst of the city wailing loudly and bitterly.**

**When he came to the king's gates, he fell down and continued to wail.**

**Throughout the entire region, Jewish people were doing the same.**

**Bitter cries could be heard in every city and throughout the entire nation.**

**When Esther's maidens and her eunuchs saw Mordecai, they ran to Queen Esther and told her all that they had seen and heard.**

**Esther, overcome with anguish, sent garments to clothe Mordecai.**

**They maidens were to tell Mordecai to remove the sackcloth and put on the garments provided by the Queen.**

**But Mordecai refused the clothing.**

**Esther then summonsed her assistant. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what troubled him.**

**When Esther's assistant spoke with Mordecai, Mordecai told him about the money that Haman had promised in exchange for the annihilation of the Jews.**

**But Mordecai did not stop there, he took a copy of the edict from his sackcloth garment and sent it with the assistant.**

**“Show this to Esther” he said. “read it to her, explain it to her and ask her to go to the king to implore his favor. Tell her to plead with the king if she has to.” He finished.**

**But when Esther received the news...she was scared.**

**She sent the assistant back with a message of her own.**

**“All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put**

**to death unless the king holds out his golden scepter.**

**I have not been summoned.” She said. “I could die if I approach the king and he does not hold out his golden scepter.”**

**Mordecai sent one more reply to Queen Esther. “Do not imagine for one minute, just because you are the queen, that you will not be affected by this edict.**

**BUT if you remain silent...relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place but you and your father’s house will perish.”**

**“Who knows, Esther...perhaps you were chosen for such a time as this.”**

**Then Esther sent one more reply to Mordecai**

**“Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, neither night or day.**

**I and my maidens also will fast in the same way.**

**And then I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.**

**So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him.**