

September 28<sup>th</sup> 2008  
Esther – Part Nine

1). Es 3:1 ¶ *After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him. 2 And all the king's servants who were within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.*

a). We had seen in our study last week how Haman's introduction in Esther forms an association between him and the Amalekites through the Amalekite king, 'Agag' – 'Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite'.

b). And we had seen that rather than a direct family connection between Haman and Agag, the association teaches spiritual truth concerning Haman's purpose with respect to Israel. And of course by extension to the purpose of the one that Haman typifies, the man of sin, Antichrist. And in addition this association also draws attention to God's dealings with the Amalekites which of necessity would carry over into our type and antitype.

c). Just as the Amalekites sought the total annihilation of the Jews in order to prevent them from attaining the purpose for their calling – rulership as God's adopted firstborn son, so does Haman and so will Antichrist.

d). And just as the Amalekites were the recipients of God's wrath for their actions – in accord with Genesis 12:3 - Recorded here in - Ex 17:14 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven."*

e). So is Haman's fate sealed when he sets his hand against the Jews Es 6:13 *When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him."*

f). And so will Antichrist's be, for exactly the same reason - Da 7:25 *He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time. 26 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever.*

2). What we are going to look at today are the circumstances that bring about Haman's actions. For as it is in the type, so it will also be in the antitype.

a). Let's remember that the events recorded concerning Haman and Israel in Esther are presenting in a type the final stage of the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation. Events that may well coincide with the opening of the seventh seal in Revelation Chapter 8.

b). These events in the antitype follow Satan being cast out of the heavens onto the earth - Re 12:7 *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

c). It is at this point that Satan gives to Antichrist his power, his throne and great authority.

d). But Antichrist will have already been on the world stage before this event. We can see him in - Re 6:1 ¶ *Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.*

i/ And he is also referenced within the same timeframe in –  
Da 9:27 *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;*

e). These events of course are at the beginning of the Tribulation. They take place after the rapture of the Church, when Antichrist, on the world stage, makes a covenant with Israel which seemingly resolves a problem that has been intractable for generations. An event that takes place as he goes out 'conquering and to conquer' but before Antichrist becomes world ruler. And we can know that he is not yet world ruler because of the 'crown' we see given to him in Revelation Chapter 6.

f). The Greek language uses two different words that are both translated 'crown' in English – one is 'stephanos', referring to a victor's crown. And the other is 'diadema', referring to regal authority or kingly power.

g). It is the word 'stephanos' that is used to describe the crown of thorns prior to the Lord's crucifixion, and 'stephanos' is the word used by Paul to describe the crowns awaiting faithful Christians.

h). The word 'stephanos' then would be used to describe someone in anticipation of their exercise of regal power, but prior to their having that power.

i). Antichrist here in Revelation 6 is given a 'stephanos'.

j). But, when we see him in Revelation 13 there is a change - Re 13:1 ¶ *Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns,[diadema] and on his heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his*

*feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.*

k). Here we see him, through the use of the word ‘diadema’ with regal power exercising Satan’s power on Satan’s behalf. He at this point has all authority as world ruler.

l). And this as we have said, is the middle point of the Tribulation, and this is where we are with Haman in the type at the beginning of Esther Chapter 3.

3). So going back into v2 of our opening scripture we find all the kings servants bowing and paying homage to the newly promoted Haman, who typifies Antichrist seated on Satan’s throne as world ruler - *But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.*

a). Clearly there is something more going on here than just honor being given to someone in a position of authority. Recognizing authority and giving deference to the position held is common in scripture, and would be the practice of the Jews - 2Sa 14:4 *And when the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and prostrated herself, and said, "Help, O king!"*

i/ Scripture teaches this - 1Pe 2:17b.....*Honor the king.*

b). And then in conjunction with this there is Haman’s reaction to Mordecai - Es 3:5 *When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath. 6 But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus-the people of Mordecai.*

c). Haman is filled with wrath not because of the actions of Mordecai alone, but because Mordecai’s actions are representative of the attitude of the entire Jewish nation towards him. All the Jews within Ahasuerus’s kingdom would refuse to bow down and pay Haman homage and so will the Jews in Antichrist’s kingdom for exactly the same reason.

d). Ex 20:1 ¶ *And God spoke all these words, saying: 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.*

e). We can conclude that within Haman’s promotion within the kingdom he is to be perceived as deity – he is to be considered as a god. A practice common among pagan rulers. And therefore the homage that he expects is not the simple giving of honor, but divine worship.

4). By comparing scripture with scripture we can see exactly the same scenario that is presented here in Esther, played out in a complimentary type occurring during the days of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, recorded in - Da 3:12 *"There are*

*certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up." 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? 15 "Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 "If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 "But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." 19 ¶ Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.*

a). We have here 3 Jews whom Nebuchadnezzar, the world ruler of his day, had ‘set over the affairs of the province of Babylon’ prefiguring for us the position of rulership as God’s adopted firstborn son that has been intended for the Jewish people since the nations inception.

b). With rulership and the Jews in view we then have an attempt to overthrow the Jews position by insisting that they worship a god other than Jehovah – something that is impossible for them to do as a monotheistic people.

c). As a result of their refusal they are then persecuted by the Gentile world power of the day with the purpose of destroying them in order to prevent God’s purpose for them being accomplished.

d). We have 3 Jews – God’s number of Divine perfection – pointing to the whole of the nation of Israel within God’s perfect purpose, being thrown into the fiery furnace heated 7 times more than usual – a description taking us back to God’s promises in Leviticus 26 and forward to the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation.

e). And just as we see in the foundational type of Noah and the flood, and the type of Moses and the burning bush and the type of Haman and Mordecai – out of the persecution comes Divine deliverance.

f). Da 3:20 *And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning*

*fiery furnace. 21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. 22 Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. 24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." 25 "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."*

5). And this is exactly what we see in the Book of Esther – Mordecai, who sits in the king's gate refuses to worship Haman, resulting in Haman's wrath being vented on the entire Jewish people throughout Ahasuerus's kingdom - Es 3:8 *Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain. 9 "If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasuries." 10 So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 11 And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people are given to you, to do with them as seems good to you." 12 Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded-to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring. 13 And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions. 14 A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day.*

a). But it is not just the refusal to worship that is Haman's problem, it is Mordecai's location that portends rulership that is the real issue - Es 5:13 *"Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."*

b). And as it is in the type, so will it be in the antitype – Antichrist will declare himself to be God and demand worship as God. The Jewish people will

refuse to worship him resulting in his attempt to annihilate the entire nation – but the real issue will be Israel's position as God's firstborn son.

c). This is what we find in - Da 9:26 *"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."*

d). 2Th 2:3 ¶ *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?*

e). Re 13:4 *So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.*

6). Antichrist's actions against the Jewish people steps into a realm beyond even genocide – as he moves against times and law, as he seeks to bring change and alteration to that which is recorded in God's unalterable and unchangeable Word – as we have already seen in - Da 7:25 *He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law.*

a). The very thing we saw in Esther - Es 3:8 *Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain.*

b). In doing so Antichrist attempts to do something that is only within the hand of God – to circumvent that which has been set in place from the foundation

of the world. In effect, not only does he declare himself to be God, he seeks to exalt his throne above God, just as Satan had done.

c). This aspect of Antichrist's actions exploiting the conflict between the law of the Jews and the law of the Gentiles is also given to us in another complimentary type in the Book of Daniel - Da 6:4 *So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. 5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God." 6 ¶ So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever! 7 "All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. 8 "Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." 9 Therefore King Darius signed the written decree. 10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. 11 ¶ Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. 12 And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." 13 So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."*

d). Again we see an attempt to exploit the difference in the law of Daniel's God and the law of the Gentiles in order to remove Daniel from his position of rulership and bring about his destruction. There is persecution followed by Divine deliverance - Da 6:22 *"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him;*

e). What we can conclude here is that the law of Daniel's God is different from the law of the Medes and Persians – both laws are unalterable – and neither can accommodate the other.

f). The law of the Jewish people during Daniel's day and during Esther's day is the old Mosaic covenant, and along with the new covenant that God will make with the Jewish people yet future, these laws will always remain apart from and in conflict with the law of the Gentiles.

g). And this attempted change of times and law will be a major facet of Antichrist's plan to destroy the Jewish nation.

7). If we go back into Esther Chapter 3 we will remember that it is recorded – Es 3:10 *So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 11 And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people are given to you, to do with them as seems good to you."*

a). We see that the king gives the Jewish people into Haman's hands to do with them as he wishes.

b). And of course in the antitype, God will give the Jews into Antichrist's hands to do with them as he wishes. But what we find, by comparing scripture with scripture, is that this is not an open ended arrangement. It has specific boundaries.

c). Let's go back again to - Da 7:25 *He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.*

d). Here the boundary is expressed as 'a time and times and half a time'

e). In - Re 13:5 *And he[Antichrist] was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.*

f). And here in revelation that same time from Daniel is shown to be 42 months – in other words 3 1/2 years – 'a time and times and half a time'.

g). There is a set timeframe then that is given to Antichrist by which he is completely bound - the terminal point of this timeframe the Lord draws attention to in - Lu 21:24 *"And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

h). It is this time, the allotted 42 months/3 1/2 years, that Antichrist will attempt to change thereby seeking to prolong the times of the Gentiles that began with Nebuchadnezzar, in order that the Jews would remain in his hands long enough for him to bring about their complete annihilation. In doing this he will also seek to extend the period of Gentile law so as to prevent the implementation of God's law.

j). Here is arrogance and here is futility.

k). What God has said with regards to Gentiles, Jews and Christians – both the positives and the negatives – will be accomplished precisely as he has said it within the time frame He has established. This cannot change.

l). Let us not be deceived into thinking that there can be a change in times and law on our behalf because we are a special case because of our circumstances. Let's remember what scripture says - 1Pe 1:17 *And if you call on the Father, who*

*without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;*

m). *Isa 46:9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'*

n). *Isa 14:27 For the LORD of hosts has purposed, And who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, And who will turn it back?"*

8). Antichrist in his attempt to change times and law will be a complete failure and he will be brought to the same end as the Assyrians and the Amalekites, the Gentile nations in Daniel's image and Haman.

a). God has established times and law which are inextricably linked with His plans and purposes for the Jewish people in respect of rulership of the earth, and man, even with angelic intervention, can no more bring about a change in these than he can bring about the destruction of the Jews.

b). Even though seated on Satan's throne, exercising Satan's authority, Antichrist will poignantly demonstrate both the futility and the foolishness of that which characterizes Satan and fallen man by raising his hand against God, against His word and against the Jewish people.

c). The experience of Haman, typifying the above, will inevitably be the experience of Antichrist. For as God has said it, so shall it be - *Es 7:10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided. 8:1 ¶ On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. 2 So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.*

d). *Da 7:26 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever. 27 Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.' 28 "This is the end of the account.*