

THE PLAN OF MORDECAI  
THE DELIVERANCE OF ISRAEL, PART 1  
(Esther 4:1-17)

- I. Mordecai's ANGUISH (Esther 4:1-3)
  - A. He "LEARNED all that had been done"
  - B. He began uninhibited MOURNING
  - C. He did not enter the PALACE GATE
  - D. Jews EVERYWHERE reacted EXACTLY as Mordecai
  
- II. Mordecai's APPEAL (Esther 4:4-8)
  - A. Esther's STAFF informed her of Mordecai's MOURNING (4a)
  - B. Esther "WRITHED in great ANGUISH" (4b)
  - C. She sent him CLOTHING (4c)
  - D. She sent Hathach to ask Mordecai WHY he was so DISTRESSED (5-6)
  - E. Mordecai told him EVERYTHING (7-8a)
    - 1. Haman's determination to DESTROY Mordecai
    - 2. Haman's promise of PAYMENT to the king
    - 3. A copy of the EDICT Haman had written
  - F. Mordecai told him to ORDER Esther to go to the king and "plead with him for HER PEOPLE" (8b)

III. Esther's ANSWER (Esther 4:9-17)

- A. Hathach reported "Mordecai's words" to ESTHER (9)
- B. Esther ORDERED Hathach to take her reply to Mordecai (10-12)
  - 1. The penalty for entering the king's court without being SUMMONED was DEATH
  - 2. The king could extend MERCY, but that was RARE
  - 3. Esther had not been summoned by the king for THIRTY DAYS
- C. Mordecai sent an URGENT reply (13-14)
  - 1. Esther would not be EXEMPT from the genocide
  - 2. Remaining SILENT would doom her FAMILY, not the JEWS
  - 3. Perhaps she had become queen for THIS MOMENT ALONE
- D. Esther sent her COURAGEOUS reply (15-16)
  - 1. Told Mordecai to ASSEMBLE all the Jews in Susa for a three-day FAST
  - 2. She and her MAIDENS would also FAST
  - 3. She would APPEAL to the king, "and if I PERISH, I PERISH"
- D. Mordecai went to organize the FAST (17)

IV. Lessons

- A. We see the DIABOLICAL nature of anti-Semitism
- B. We see the importance of a COMMUNITY of FAITH
- C. We see the necessity of CONFIDENCE in God's SOVEREIGNTY
- D. We see that God's purposes are for our SERVICE, not our COMFORT