

# Message Notes

## Esther and Easter!

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

**Introduction - "He is Risen!"**

Today's Message:  
Easter and Esther!  
Esther Chapter Two

**The Advice - Esther 2:1-4**

**The Search - Esther 2:5-8**

**The Preparation - Esther 2:9-14**

**Esther's Turn - Esther 2:15-18**

**A Plot Discovered - Esther 2:19-23**

**Esther Two Themes**

**Esther Two Implications**

**Easter Reversals**

**Easter Implications**

**Application - "He is Risen!"**

**Esther 2:1-23**

<sup>1</sup>Later when the anger of King Xerxes had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her. <sup>2</sup>Then the king's personal attendants proposed, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king. <sup>3</sup>Let the king appoint commissioners in every province of his realm to bring all these beautiful girls into the harem at the citadel of Susa. Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let beauty treatments be given to them. <sup>4</sup>Then let the girl who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This advice appealed to the king, and he followed it. <sup>5</sup>Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shime'i, the son of Kish, "who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah. <sup>6</sup>Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died. <sup>7</sup>When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many girls were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. <sup>8</sup>The girl pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven maids selected from the king's palace and moved her and her maids into the best place in the harem. <sup>9</sup>Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. <sup>10</sup>Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her. <sup>11</sup>Before a girl's turn came to go in to King Xerxes, she had to complete twelve months of beauty treatments prescribed for the women, six months with oil of myrrh and six with perfumes and cosmetics. <sup>12</sup>And this is how she would go to the king: Anything she wanted was given her to take with her from the harem to the king's palace. <sup>13</sup>In the evening she would go there and in the morning return to another part of the harem to the care of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. She would not return to the king unless he was pleased with her and summoned her by name. <sup>14</sup>When the turn came for Esther (the girl Mordecai had adopted, the daughter of his uncle Abihail) to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her. <sup>15</sup>She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal residence in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. <sup>16</sup>Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. <sup>17</sup>And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed gifts with royal liberality. <sup>18</sup>When the virgins were assembled a second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate. <sup>19</sup>But Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality just as Mordecai had told her to do, for she continued to follow Mordecai's instructions as she had done when he was bringing her up. <sup>20</sup>During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. <sup>21</sup>But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai. <sup>22</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.





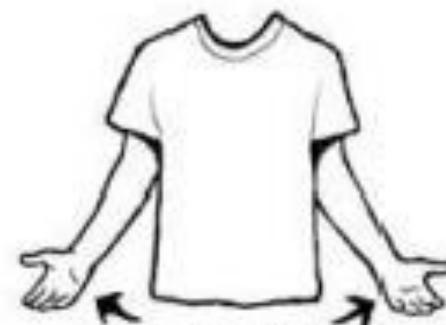
**ROOKIE**



**ELBOW FLAP**



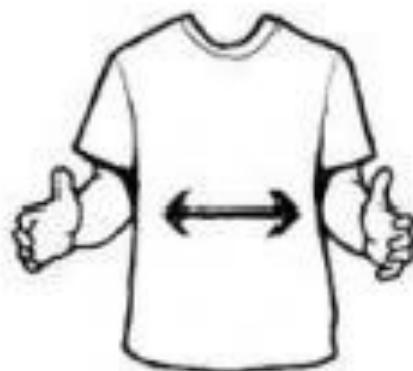
**CARRY THE TV**



**GO BIGSCREEN**

Courtesy of Tim Hawkins

INTER-  
MEDIATE



MY FISH WAS THIS BIG



HOLD MY BABY



MUFASA

PRO



DUELING LIGHTBULBS



GOALPOSTS +  
HEARTBURN



POINTER

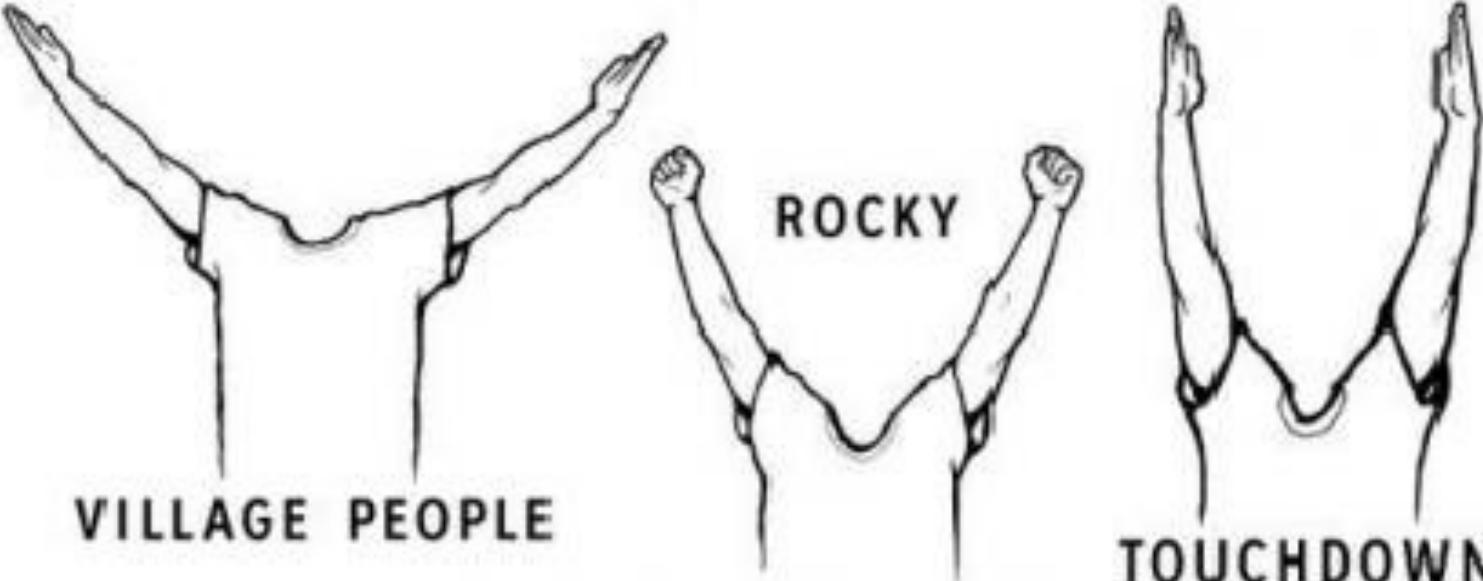


HATCHET



SCHOOL  
ROOM

EXPERT



**WARNING:** VIOLENT HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND THE WAVING OF OVER-SIZED FLAGS ARE  
STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE EJECTION.



# ESTHER

*a reversal of fortunes*

# Xerxes I

- Reigned from 485-465BC
- 5<sup>th</sup> King of the new Persian Empire started by Cyrus
- Led an unsuccessful invasion of Greece
- Always at war with Greece, and Persian Empire never conquers the Greek mainland (The Movie 300!)



Xerxes I of Persia, from Hadish Palace at Persepolis.

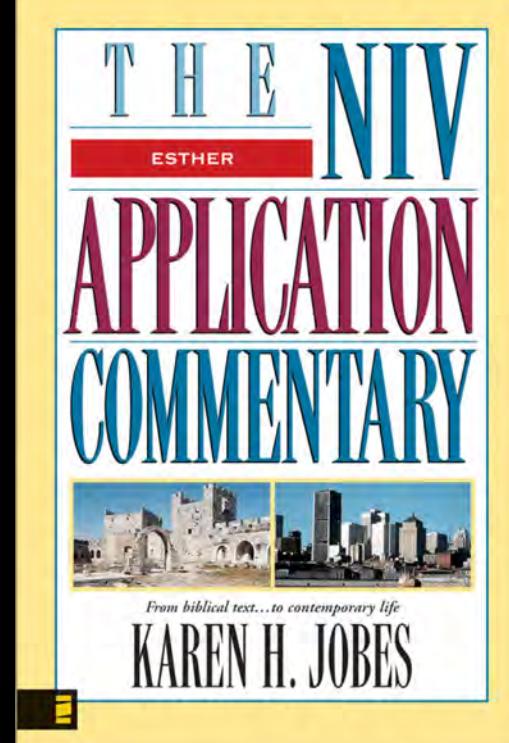






“The biblical author makes no attempt to vindicate Esther and Mordecai by explaining extenuating circumstances or reporting that they had divine counsel to behave as they did.”

~ Karen Jobes, *Esther*. The NIV Application Commentary page 101.





SIRANI, Giovanni Andrea, Esther before Ahasuerus, 1630s, Szépmûvészeti Mûzeum, Budapest



## Esther 3:1-2

1 After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. 2 All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.

## Esther 3:3-4

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

## Esther 3:5-6

**5** When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. **6** 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.

## Esther 3:7

7 In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the *pur* (that is, the lot) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar.

## Esther 3:8-9

8 Then Haman said to King Xerxes, “There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king’s laws; it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them. 9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king’s administrators for the royal treasury.”

## Esther 3:10-11

10 So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 11 “Keep the money,” the king said to Haman, “and do with the people as you please.”

## Esther 3:12

**12** Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders to the king's satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring.

## Esther 3:13-14

**13** Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. **14** A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so they would be ready for that day.

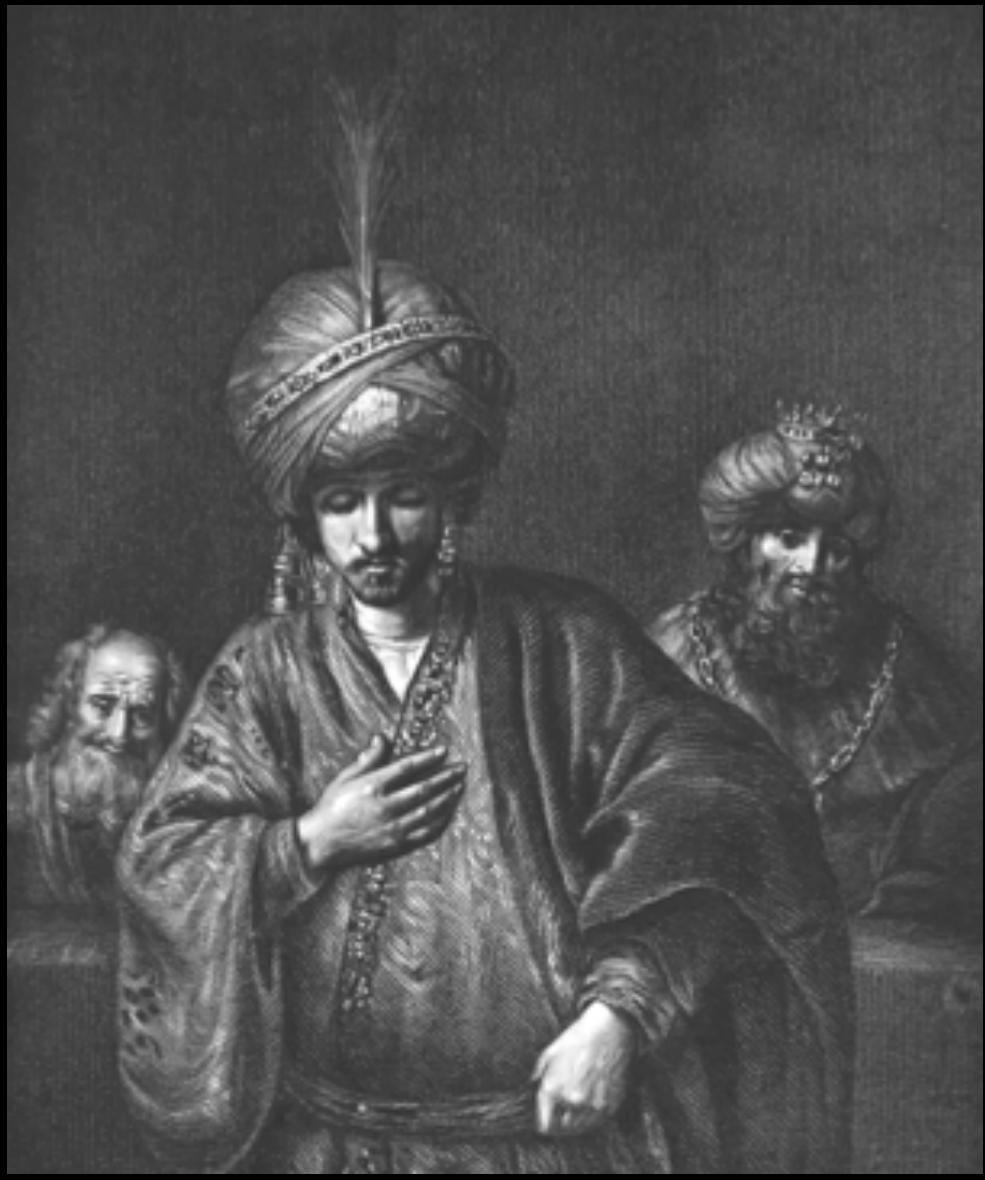
## Esther 3:15

15 The couriers went out, spurred on by the king's command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was bewildered.

# The Introduction of a New Character

## Esther 3:1

1 After these events,  
King Xerxes honored  
Haman son of  
Hammedatha, the  
Agagite, elevating him  
and giving him a seat of  
honor higher than that  
of all the other nobles.



# “The Agagite”

## Story #1 - 1 Samuel 15:1-3

1 Samuel said to Saul, “I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. 2 This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. 3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.’”

# “The Agagite”

Story #1 - 1 Samuel 15:7-9

7 Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt.

8 He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. 9 But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs – everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

# “The Agagite”

Story #1 - 1 Samuel 15:10-11

10 Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel: 11 “I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.”

# “The Agagite”

## Story #2 - Exodus 17:8-9

8 The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. 9 Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.”

# “The Agagite”

## Story #2 - Exodus 17:14

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.”

# “The Agagite”

## Story #2 - Exodus 17:15-16

15 Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner. 16 He said, “Because hands were lifted up against the throne of the Lord, the Lord will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation.”

# Jacob and Esau



# Mordecai's Refusal

## Esther 3:2

2 All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.



# Parallel to Daniel and Friends?



# Parallel to Daniel and Friends?



# Mordecai's Refusal

## Esther 3:3-4

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

# Haman looks to kill Mordecai's people

## Esther 3:5-6

5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. 6 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.

VEGGIETALES ... "EYE-POPPING ANIMATION!" Parenting Magazine

BIG IDEAS

# VeggieTales<sup>®</sup>

## ESTHER

The Girl Who Became Queen





# Haman's Plot of Genocide



## The Pur - Esther 3:7

7 In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the *pur* (that is, the lot) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar.

## The Pur - Esther 3:7

7 In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the *pur* (that is, the lot) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar.



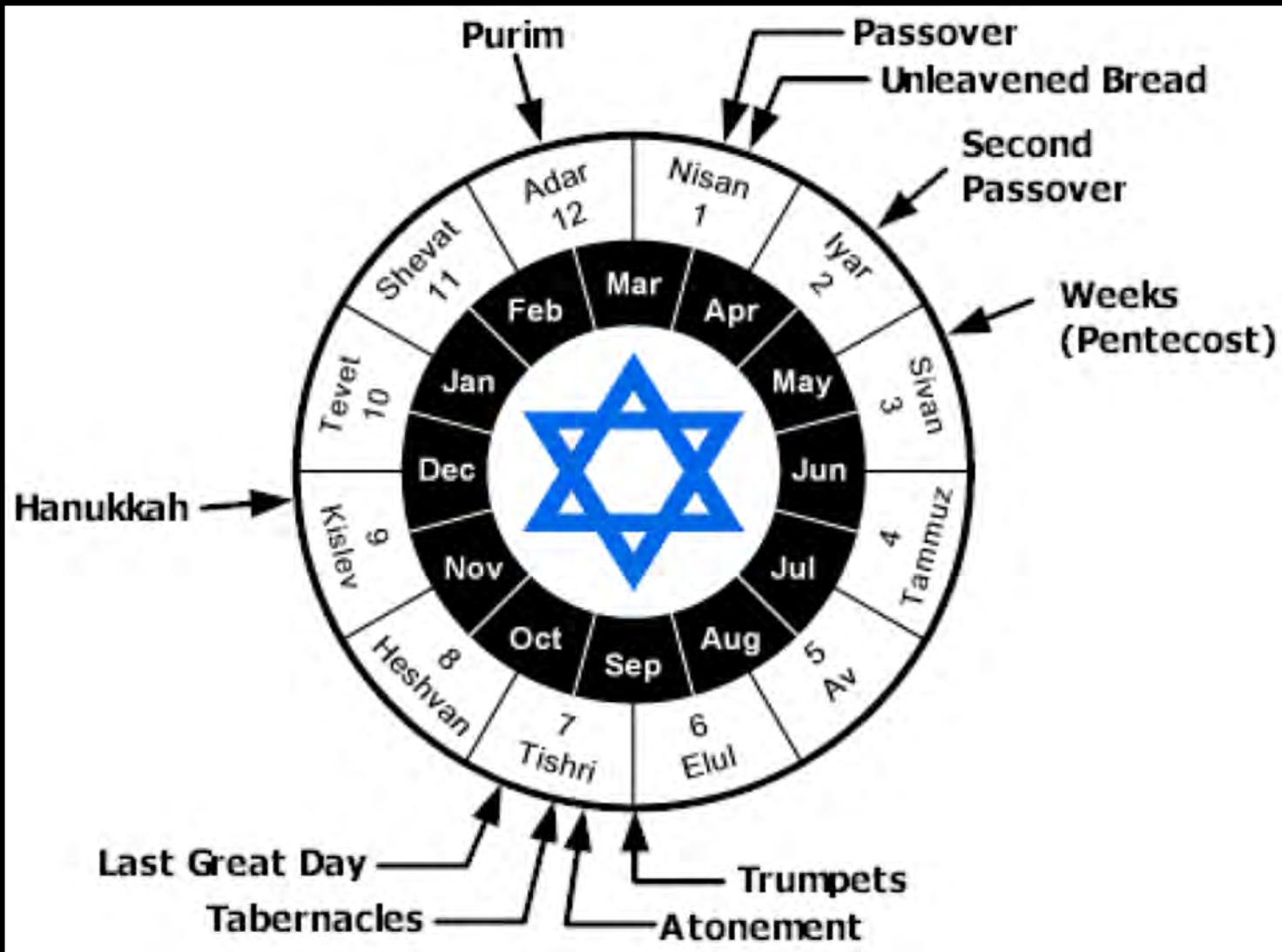
## The Pur - Esther 3:7

7 In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the *pur* (that is, the lot) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar.



## The timeline - Esther 3:7

7 In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the *pur* (that is, the lot) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar.



# Haman manipulates Xerxes

## Esther 3:8-9

8 Then Haman said to King Xerxes, “There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king’s laws; it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them. 9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king’s administrators for the royal treasury.”

# Haman manipulates Xerxes

## Esther 3:10-11

10 So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 11 “Keep the money,” the king said to Haman, “and do with the people as you please.”



# An edict of genocide

## Esther 3:12

**12** Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders to the king's satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring.

# An edict of genocide

## Esther 3:13-14

**13** Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews – young and old, women and children – on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. **14** A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so they would be ready for that day.

## A tale of two responses

### Esther 3:15

15 The couriers went out, spurred on by the king's command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was bewildered.

# A tale of two responses

## Esther 3:15

15 The couriers went out, spurred on by the king's command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was bewildered.



# Themes Further Developed in the Bible

*Racism*

*Persecution*

# Race/Nations/Gentiles/Peoples/Families

## Genesis 12:1-3

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. 2“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

# Race/Nations/Gentiles/Peoples/Families

2 Samuel 22:50

King David: “Therefore I will praise you, Lord, among the nations (Gentiles); I will sing the praises of your name.”

# Race/Nations/Gentiles/Peoples/Families

Mark 13:10

The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

# Race/Nations/Gentiles/Peoples/Families

Mark 13:10

The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

# Race/Nations/Gentiles/Peoples/Families

Revelation 5:9

9 And they sang a new song, saying:  
“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its  
seals, because you were slain, and with your blood  
you purchased for God persons from every tribe  
and language and people and nation.

# Race/Nations/Gentiles/Peoples/Families

“I think the main thing would be to seek out educating yourself on the realities of institutional racism and white privilege. Minnesota white folks, if I can be a little blunt, are generally very ignorant of those things.”

# Race/Nations/Gentiles/Peoples/Families

“One thing I've noticed is how stereotypes puts people off from getting to know someone from a different race or ethnic background here in the states.”

# Race/Nations/Gentiles/Peoples/Families

“I have experienced racism in the sense that I do very well in school and I have come across quite a number of people who were shocked that I could do so well...They should understand that generally a minority have to work twice as hard as others to be successful.”

# Persecution

John 16:33

33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

# Persecution

John 15:18-21

18 “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. 21 They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.

## Esther 3:8-9

8 Then Haman said to King Xerxes, “There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king’s laws; it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them. 9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king’s administrators for the royal treasury.”

# Gospel Application

## In, Not Of

# Gospel Application

## In, Not Of

### Incarnation/Crucifixion