

Esther 3:15

The couriers went out, hastened by the king's command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

Esther, a wonderful book in the bible to read, and you can read the entire story in about 30 minutes or less. So, if you haven't read it, or it's been a while since you have, I would encourage you to. But it is not just a story, but it is truth of what happened a few thousand years ago to the Jewish people, and how God protected them from a evil man named Haman, and God did it through a young girl named Esther, who's parents had died and was raised by her uncle Mordecai, and eventually married the king and became Queen Esther. But Even though I say God protected and saved them, the name of God, or the Lord, is not in the book at all, yet God is all over it and throughout the book of Esther.

So real quick what was happening up to our verse today, is that Haman (the king's right hand man so to speak) hated Mordecai, because Mordecai, who was Jewish, would not bow down to him, and Haman was so angry and evil, that he not only wanted to have Mordecai killed, but he wanted all the Jews to be killed. So Haman told the king a bunch of lies and persuaded the king to have the Jews killed, not knowing that Queen Esther was a Jew. So the king agreed to this, and it was determined by Pur (Casting lots) in eleven months that all the Jews would be killed, with written notices and postings going throughout the kingdom.

† **Esther 3:14** *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.*

But as you read that, you have to realize how one man's (Haman) hatred and anger and sin, not only affected Mordecai, the one he was angry with and hated, but also the Jews who were innocent, and the entire kingdom was affected by this one man's (Haman) sin. Did you see it at the end of the verse? "***but the city of Shushan was perplexed.***" Think of one bad cop who kills an innocent person, some turn into Haman's and think all cops are bad and they should all be done away with, which is 100% wrong. Yet this is the type of thing Haman was doing.

Oh how one man's sin and hatred causes chaos, even James mentions this.

† **James 4:1-2** *Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.*

Wars and fights, it all starts with one man's (or woman's) sin, simply because they want to sin, or their thoughts or actions are sinful, and the end results is anger and hatred that affects not only themselves or the one they are angry with or hate, but also those around them, and as we see it affects cities, states and even countries. Think of the riots that happened last year, if you think about it, they all started with one man's sin, or evil thought, which developed into a group of people, which developed into a cult of people which affected the destruction of innocent people's property as well as just innocent people being hurt.

These are things to think about next time you are angry with someone or you are planning on simply sinning. Try putting it up against God's word and against His list, which is the Fruit of the Spirit, to check out if it is sin or not.

† **Galatians 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Will it promote or will the end results be:

Love

Joy

Peace

Longsuffering

kindness, goodness

faithfulness

gentleness

self-control

If not, then it is sin, and you need to stop it before it affect yourself, as well as others.

† **Galatians 5:25-26 (MSG)** *Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.*