

Haman's Lies
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Matthew 24:3–9 ESV

As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.

Zechariah 12:1–3 ESV

The oracle of the word of the Lord concerning Israel: Thus declares the Lord, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him: “Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.

Genesis 12:3 NKJV

I will bless those who bless you,
And I will curse him who curses you;
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis 17:1–8 NKJV

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I *am* Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

Amos 9:14–15 NKJV

I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit *them*; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,”
Says the Lord your God.

The Identity of Haman

Deuteronomy 25:17-19 NKJV

Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you *were* tired and weary; and he did not fear God. Therefore it shall be, when the Lord your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess *as* an inheritance, *that* you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.

Exodus 17:16 NKJV

The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

Esther 2:5–6 ESV

Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite, who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away.

1 Samuel 9: 1–2 ESV

There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

The Four Core Lies of Haman

Esther 3:8-9 ESV

Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king’s laws, so that it is not to the king’s profit to tolerate them. If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king’s business, that they may put it into the king’s treasuries.

The Esther Counter — Four I’s:

Not Different — *Indigenous*

Not Disloyal — *Innocent*

Not Dangerous — *Indispensable*

Not Disposable — *Indestructible*

Lies Being Told About Israel Today

1. Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.
2. Israel is an apartheid state.
3. Israel stole Palestinian land.
4. Israel illegally occupies the West Bank and East Jerusalem.
5. Israel Is a Settler-Colonial Project.

The Spirit of Esther

Esther 4:13–16 NKJV

Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.”

Small Group Guide: Haman's Lies

Opening Question

When have you encountered a widely held belief that you suspected — or later discovered — was simply not true? What made it hard to push back on, and what finally gave you the courage or clarity to do so?

The Ancient Hatred and the Everlasting Covenant

The book of Esther is one of the few books of the Bible that never mentions God by name. And yet the fingerprints of divine providence are on every page. A Jewish girl becomes queen of Persia. Her uncle refuses to bow to the king's second-in-command. And that refusal sets in motion a chain of events that will either end in the annihilation of the Jewish people or their deliverance. The story feels familiar because it is. It has played out, in varying forms, across nearly every century of recorded history.

Haman was not simply a powerful official with a personal grudge. His lineage as an Agagite connected him directly to Agag, king of the Amalekites — the people God commanded Israel to blot out because of their cruelty, and who attacked the weakest and most vulnerable members of Israel from the rear as they left Egypt (Deuteronomy 25:17-19). Mordecai's ancestry traced almost certainly back to King Saul — the very king whom God commanded to destroy the Amalekites, and who partially disobeyed by sparing Agag. What looks like a political conflict in the court of Ahasuerus is actually another chapter in a generational war that began with Esau's hatred of Jacob and runs, Scripturally, all the way to Revelation 12. The hatred of Israel is not merely political. Its root is Satanic.

Haman's strategy was simple and devastatingly effective: four lies, delivered to the king with enough plausibility to secure a death warrant. The Jews were different — foreign, not belonging. They were disloyal — not keeping the king's laws. They were dangerous — a threat to be neutralized. And they were disposable — the world would be better without them. These four lies have echoed through history, adapting their clothing to each era, and they are being repeated today in new forms: lies regarding genocide, apartheid, stolen land, illegal occupation, and settler-colonialism. The details change; the structure does not.

What Scripture offers against each lie is not a political argument but a covenantal one. God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants, giving them the land of Canaan as a permanent possession (Genesis 17:1-8). Amos 9 foretold the return of Israel to their land and its permanence, and that word was fulfilled in 1948 in one of the most astonishing prophetic fulfillments in history. Israel's rebirth as a nation started the prophetic clock on the end times, and the subsequent explosion of worldwide antisemitism — including, remarkably, within the Church — is itself a major sign Jesus identified in Matthew 24. Genesis 12:3 still stands: God will bless those who bless Israel and bring judgment on those who curse her. That is not a promise that expired with the Old Testament.

Which brings us to Esther herself. When Mordecai warned her that silence was not safety and asked whether she had come to her position for exactly this moment, she did not offer a plan. She responded with a fast, a commitment, and a willingness to risk everything: “If I perish, I perish.” That is the spirit the moment requires. Not recklessness, but courage — the willingness to stand for truth when the cost is real, armed not with political savvy but with prayer, preparation, and the confidence that God’s covenant with Israel has never wavered and never will.

For Discussion

1. Haman’s four core lies — that the Jews were different, disloyal, dangerous, and disposable — have reappeared throughout history in new forms. Where do you see versions of these lies showing up in what you read, watch, or hear today? How do you respond when you encounter them?
2. Genesis 12:3 says God will bless those who bless Abraham’s descendants and bring judgment on those who curse them. How seriously do you take that promise as something that applies today? Has your view of Israel and the Jewish people been shaped more by Scripture or by the cultural conversation around you?
3. Mordecai told Esther that staying silent was not the same as staying safe — and that she may have been placed in her position for exactly this moment. Is there an area of your life right now where you have been choosing silence because it feels safer? What would it look like to respond the way Esther did?
4. Before Esther acted, she called for three days of fasting and prayer. She didn’t move on courage alone — she moved on preparation. What role does prayer play in your own willingness to stand for truth in difficult situations? Is there a next step you’ve been waiting to feel ready for that might require the same kind of preparation?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, You are the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and Your covenant with Israel has never wavered, not through exile, not through persecution, not through the worst the enemy has brought against Your people. Thank You that what You have promised, You will fulfill. Give us eyes to see current events the way You see them, with the clarity that comes from knowing Your Word. Where we have been silent out of comfort or cowardice, convict us and give us courage. Where we have believed lies because they were convenient or culturally acceptable, replace them with truth. Holy Spirit, make us people of the Esther moment — willing to fast, to pray, to stand, and to act, knowing that You have placed us here for such a time as this. Amen.

