

ESTHER



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Esther 3:1-15





Esther 2:21-23

“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. But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai. And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were impaled on poles. All this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.”



Esther 3:1

“After these events, King Xerxes honored...”



Esther 3:1

“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.”

“Haman’s conflict with Mordecai finds ancient roots: Mordecai, of Saul’s family line, encounters Haman (of the family line of King Agag, the king of the Amalekites). From the moment of Haman’s introduction, the Jewish reader would be in no doubt that Mordecai represents the redemptive presence of God among his people, whereas Haman stands in opposition to that presence. However, it is Haman and not Mordecai who is honoured, elevated and promoted to a high seat.”

- Debra Reid



Esther 3:2-4

“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. 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.”



Daniel 3:18

“Be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”



Esther 3:5-6

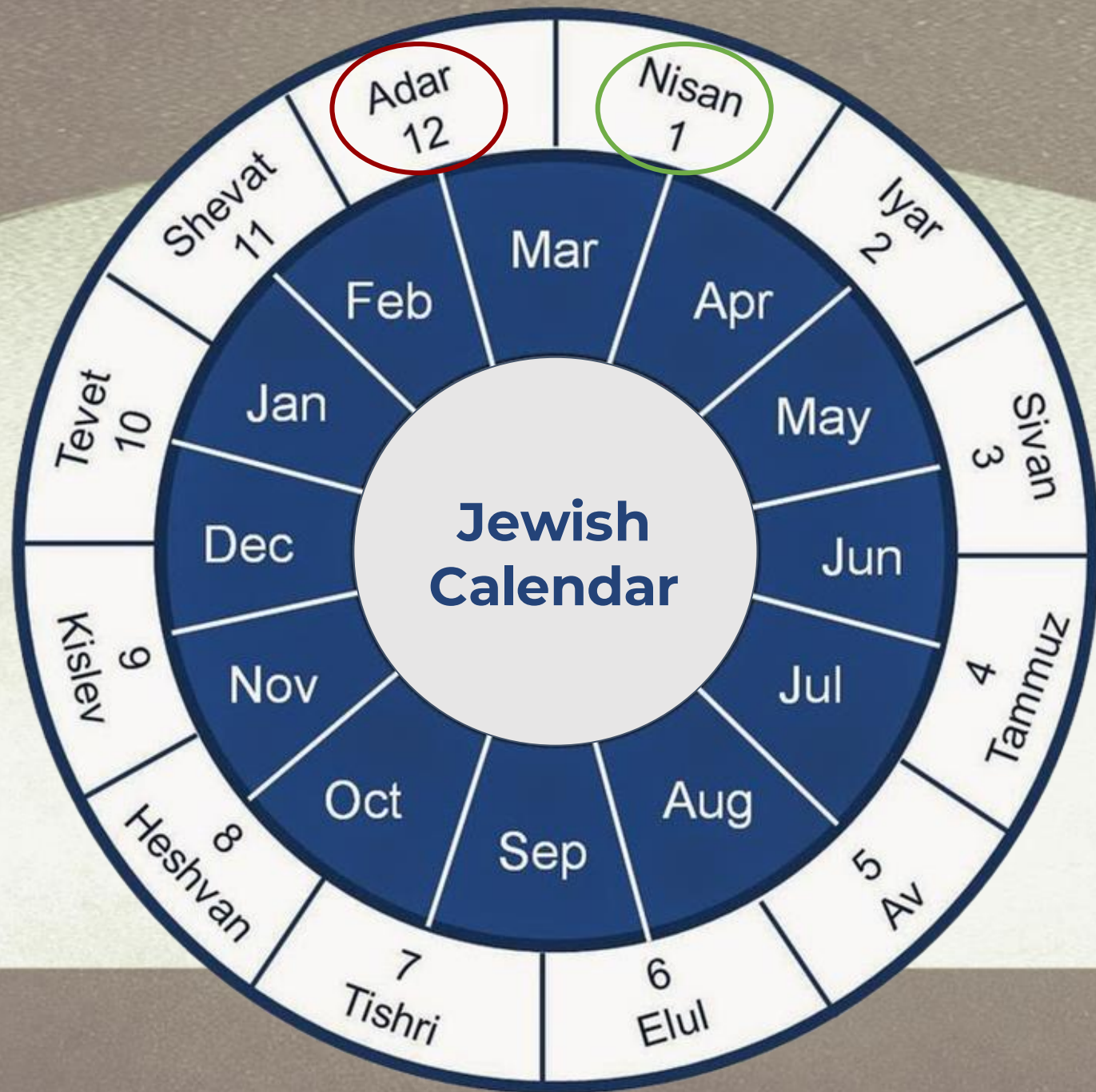
“When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. Yet having learned who Mordecai’s people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai’s people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.”



Esther 3:7

“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.”







Proverbs 16:33

“The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the Lord.”



Esther 3:8-11

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. 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.” 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. “Keep the money,” the king said to Haman, “and do with the people as you please.”

“Haman introduces his plan to the king by suggesting that there is a “certain people” who contaminate his empire and threaten his interests. There are no specific allegations, just a collection of ideas that give the impression that this people have wide influence, are guilty of disobedience, and deserve punishment. It is ironic that Haman says it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them when the latest conspiracy against him was uncovered by two of their number”.

- Debra Reid



Esther 3:12-15

“Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. 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.

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.



Where are you God? - People of God in exile to a hostile empire

There He is! - Esther becomes queen, Mordecai uncovers plot to assassinate the King

Where are you God? - Haman gets honored instead of Mordecai, sets out to kill Mordecai and all Jews

There He is! - Haman's lot falls on the furthest possible date

Where are you God? - Xerxes agrees and sends out decree to kill all Jews on the eve of Passover



Esther 4:1-3

“When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.”



“You have abandoned me”

“You are silent”

“You are far from me”

“You are ignoring my cries”

“Your love has vanished”

“Your promises have failed”

“I am exhausted from crying for help; my throat is parched. My eyes are swollen with weeping, waiting for my God to help me.”

“Lament is entrusting our honest
feelings to God”





Philippians 4:6-7:

“Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”



“Cast all your anxieties upon him, because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6)

“Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

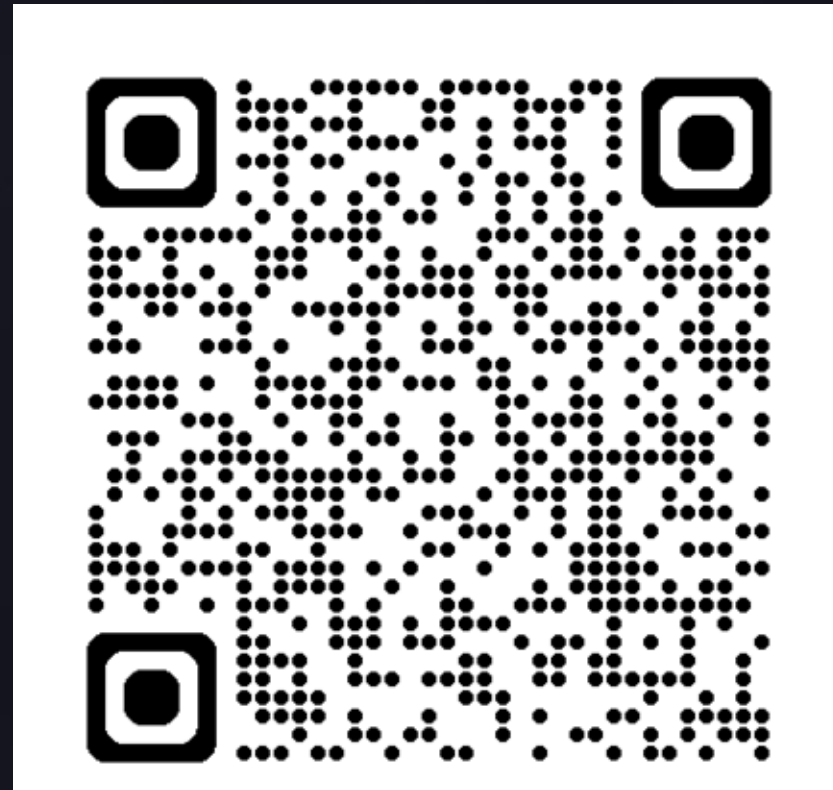
“Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge” (Psalm 62:8)

ESTHER





SERMON RESOURCES



1

Problem: Begin your psalm by pouring out your honest heart to God.

“Jesus, today I am carrying...”

- The loss of a loved one
- The loss of a dream
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Broken relationships
- Exhaustion
- Lack of purpose
- Loss of a job
- Doubt
- A hurting loved one
- Expectations of others
- Financial struggles

“It feels like...”

- You have abandoned me
- You are silent
- You are far from me
- You are ignoring my cries
- Your love has vanished
- Your promises have failed
- My spirit has grown faint
- No one is concerned for me
- I have no refuge
- My soul is disturbed and downcast
- I am oppressed by my enemies
- Others have hidden a snare in my path

2

Petition: What do you desire for God to do?

“Please come and...”

- Fill my heart with joy
- Bring light to my eyes
- Answer me
- Straighten the way before me
- Protect me
- Set me free from my prison
- Show me your love
- Rescue me
- Relieve the troubles of my heart
- Hear me
- Give me a sign of your goodness
- Draw near to me

3

Praise: What aspect of God's character can you stand firmly upon today? (Refer to slide)

“Remind me that you are...”