

Sunday School Lesson

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the pieces of the plot work together like a jigsaw puzzle. Mordecai foiled a plot against the king. Later this would be of advantage to the Jews. This deed of Mordecai showed that he was faithful to the king, but he would not bow down to Haman. One was to show such respect to God alone.

The reason for Haman's reluctance to deal with Mordecai alone is not clear. Did he know of Mordecai's deed of faithful-

ness?

Chapters 3:7 through 4:3: The king was informed of the Jews in dark terms. They were portrayed as a threat to the stability of the empire, people who ignored the law of the land. The king was quick to agree to their elimination.

Chapter 4:4-17: When Esther learned of the program against her people, she was not ready at once to help. Only when she was reminded that even her place as queen would not save her did she agree to act. God's way in history is indicated by

Mordecai's words, "Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this,"

Chapters 5 through 7: Haman held a position of security and prestige. His confidence was further bolstered by his invitation to the queen's dinner, and he planned for the public execution of Mordecai. Esther, however, had laid her plans carefully. The combination of Esther's cleverness, Mordecai's faithfulness to the king, and Haman's overconfidence worked together to destroy the enemy of the Jews.

Chapter 8: Not even the king could reverse an order given in his name, but he did authorize a second decree allowing the Jews to kill all those who had plotted against them. This attitude toward their enemies is consistent with certain other Old Testament passages. The vengeance of God was seen to be visited upon the enemies of his people.

What The Scripture Says to Us

The punch line to a famous vaudeville joke is, "Everybody's gotta be somewhere." Obviously, this statement is true. Some-

times we have no difficulty in planning how we got there. We planned to get there, and we planned when we would be there.

On the other hand, all of us have had the experience of finding ourselves in situations we did not plan. Indeed, how we had our way, we would have been elsewhere. Sometimes we can show how we got there, but at other times we are uncertain even about this.

Esther was queen because she had managed to lay her plans wisely. Furthermore, she had

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Electric toothbrush, for sure.

Electric suntan?

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electric woman

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