

## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR ESTHER 3

### Verse 1

Haman the Agagite

- He was an Amalekite
- He was a descendant of King Agag
- He was an enemy of the Jews
- God was the enemy of Haman

### Verse 2

Some believe that Ahasuerus is commanding people to worship Haman. There is no evidence to suggest that Ahasuerus saw himself as a god on earth and worthy of worship. If Ahasuerus did not demand worship of himself, then he certainly would not have decreed that Haman should be worshiped.

### Verse 6

Haman must sacrifice thousands of men, women and children to the god of his pride.

### Verse 7

The casting of lots was used throughout Scripture:

- The lot was used to determine which goat was set free and which one was used as a sacrifice (Leviticus 16:9)
- The lot was used to divvy up the land of Israel between the tribes (Numbers 33:54).
- The lot was used to determine who sinned in Israel and caused their defeat at Ai (Joshua 7:14-15).
- The pagan sailors cast lots to determine that Jonah was the one responsible for the storm (Jonah 1:7).
- The lot fell to Matthias and he was the man chosen by God to take Judas' place among the twelve Apostles (Acts 1:26).

The instance in Acts is the last time the casting of lots was used in Scripture. We do not need this ancient way of determining God's will because we now have the Holy Spirit indwelling us and His completed Word.

Government leaders using astrology is nothing new in this world and continues to the day. Rumors abound that Mary Lincoln held séances in the White House; Nancy Reagan used astrologers to arrange important meetings and appearances of her husband, Ronald Reagan.

### **Verse 8**

The advisors manipulated Ahasuerus into getting rid of Vashti (chapter 1).

The attendants manipulated him into an unorthodox way of finding a new queen (chapter 2).

Haman manipulated Ahasuerus to get rid of the Jews (chapter 3).

### **Verse 9**

Ahasuerus led a disastrous military campaign into Greece (which happened between chapters 1 and 2). As a result, the Persian coffers were hurting. The annual income of the Empire from taxes was about 14,000 talents of silver; Haman was promising to put 10,000 talents of silver (about 300 tons) into the bank account of Ahasuerus. This would have been almost an extra year of income.