



Pastor Andy  
02-01-17  
Single Focus

## A Renewed Rivalry of Revenge

God's Sovereignty in the Shadows: How is this Revealed?

- Obvious Plot Changes
- Subtle Plot Changes
- The author's intentional wording

Act 1: The Story Behind the Story- Israel vs. Amalek

### *Scene 1:*

Saul's Command from God  
1 Samuel 15:1-3

God made a command for King Saul through Samuel.

- ◆ Go to Amalek.
- ◆ Destroy all of Amalek.
  - Men and women
  - Child and infant
  - Ox and sheep
  - Camel and donkey

### *Scene 2:*

Amalek's Attack of Israel  
Exodus 17:8-16



- ◆ Amalek attacked Israel as they came out of Egypt.
- ◆ Moses' arms were held up by Aaron and Hur as Joshua led Israel in battle.
  - When Moses' arms were up, Israel was winning.
  - If Moses' arms were down, Israel was losing.
- ◆ God's promise: "I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." (17:14)

*Scene 3:*

*Amalek's Attitude*

*Deut. 25:17-19*

- ◆ Amalek attacked you while you were weak.
- ◆ Amalek cut off your tail.
- ◆ Amalek did not fear God.

*Scene 4:*

*Saul's Response to God's Command*

*1 Samuel 15:7-9*

- ◆ Saul spared King Agag and the best of his livestock (15:9).
- ◆ Saul did not utterly destroy them (15:9).
- ◆ As a result, Saul lost his kingdom.



## Act 2: The Renewal of the Ancient Rivalry

### *Scene 1:*

#### An Agagite Comes to Power (3:1-2)

- ◆ Finally, our story has a clear villain.
- ◆ Haman is the new 2nd in command to King Xerxes.
- ◆ Haman and his father (Hammedatha) both have Persian names.

### *Scene 2:*

#### Haman and Mordecai begin to fight (3:3-6)

- ◆ The Rivalry is Renewed:
  - Haman- descendant of Agag.
  - Mordecai- descendant of Saul.
- ◆ Mordecai wouldn't bow or pay homage.
- ◆ Mordecai's fellow-servants questioned him.
  - They questioned him about the King's command.
  - They questioned him constantly.
  - They tested Mordecai.
    - ◆ By telling Haman
    - ◆ Because he was a Jew
- ◆ Haman was enraged.
  - He was angry at Mordecai.
  - He was angry at Israel.

Now, we finally understand the main plot of the book: the attempt to destroy the Jewish people.



## Act 3: Haman Hatches a Holocaust

### *Scene 1:*

Haman casts lots (3:7)

- ◆ Haman cast Pur, which means lots.
  - ◆ Lots- a stone or dice.
  - ◆ The stone was cut and marked.
  - ◆ It is from this word that we get the term Purim, which is one of the main reasons that this book is written.
- ◆ Haman's casting of Pur is ironic.

*God even controls the fall of a thrown dice (Prov. 16:33)*

### *Scene 2:*

Haman proposes the plan (3:8-11)

- ◆ Haman tricked the King.
- ◆ Haman twisted the truth.
- ◆ Haman told the King what he wanted to hear.

**Problem:** Persian Law stated exclusion was not allowed with only one witness.

### *Scene 3:*

Haman seals the deal (3:12-14)

- ◆ He set the date.
- ◆ He sent the message.



*Scene 4:*

The perplexed people panic (3:15)

- ◆ Susa was confused.
- ◆ Susa was split.

### God's Sovereignty in the Shadows

- ◆ Casting of lots
- ◆ Xerxes' easy-going attitude
- ◆ 11 month time-span between decree and execution

### Practical Applications

- ◆ God is still in control even in the midst of political corruption.
- ◆ Leaders should be not be push-overs.
- ◆ Decisions should not be made out of selfish hatred or revenge.
- ◆ Do not use others to fulfill your own personal agenda (Prov. 12:20)
- ◆ Seriously consider Anti-Semitism and racism.
- ◆ God fulfills his promises.