

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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*Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace in front of the king's rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace. (Esther 5:1)*

The story of Esther is such a great story. And I've heard it said that it is the only book in the Bible that does not explicitly declare the name of the Lord. But one reading can surely reveal His presence. The God of the third day is at it again. Just when the people of God are despondent, dismayed, dejected, or defeated, the God of The Third Day is on the move. *Now it came about on the third day...* This is such a great statement that we see the theme played out in other places in scripture. Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac...wonder what took place in the mind of the man Abraham as he considered God's command to sacrifice Isaac? The disciples after the Crucifixion...where was their hope? Dead in the tomb. At least that is what they thought...until the third day. The third day is when God turns evil thinking people on their head. The third day is when God's people are confronted with the power of God to change their circumstance. The third day is when Good triumphs over Evil. Three days after Esther commits to Mordecai to take the great risk of approaching the king, she dons her best clothing and enters the presence of the king, who holds the future of the Jews in his hand. She asks for a banquet that will precede another banquet. Haman, the anti-hero comes away from the first banquet absolutely convinced that the king and the queen want to honor him. He recounts for his family and friends his great accomplishments and his elevated stature in the kingdom. The ungodly will always demonstrate that self-centeredness is a continuous lifestyle. Haman believes life is all about him. But even a universe that revolves around him is not enough. He wants his enemy Mordecai to be destroyed. So Haman has a gallows built. But soon he will find that Someone is controlling the execution of an execution. And Haman still thinks he is to be honored and Mordecai will be destroyed.

This is the plan of the God of the Third Day. Human agendas are often not what they seem to both the godly and the godless. The Lord God moves the heart of the kings of the earth in mysterious and timely ways. The king spent a sleepless night learning of Mordecai's heroics where he was informed of once being spared assassination by information that Mordecai the Jew had provided. When the Lord intervenes, the blind can see and the deaf can hear at exactly the right time when God is most glorified. Haman approaches the king at the very moment the king plans to honor someone. And Haman still thinks the honor is all about him. Imagine his humiliation parading the object of his disdain around the public arena so all could see and hear how Mordecai the Jew was being honored. Mordecai had to be thinking, *I can't believe this is happening*. Haman had to be thinking, *I can't believe this is happening*. Probably the only time their two competing worldviews are in sync.

Haman returns home and hears his wife and friends giving him a prophetic word. He will not prevail over Mordecai the Jew. The biggest surprise is still in store for Haman. A side study is to look up the meaning of the name of Haman's wife Zeresh. Why is her name given here? The meaning of the name is *misery; strange; dispersed inheritance*. From Misery's name comes this foreboding prophecy. Haman is in the process of losing all that he is...all that he has...and before he can process this, people come to help him in the process. He is taken to the king. Haman doesn't know what's coming...but God surely does. I have been impressed lately with how much things are changing in my life that I didn't see coming. But God surely did. Two things I know today. We can trust the God of the Third Day ... and I know He really loves us. The Cross and the Tomb say so...clearly and dearly.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam