

Haman Plots to Destroy the Jews

Here the account takes a sudden, threatening turn. The story now has a villain. **Haman** was promoted above **all the other nobles (3:1)**. But that power went to **his** head and led **him** to make a decision **he** would soon regret. **He** plotted the death of all **the Jews** because **Mordecai** refused to bow down to honor **him**. The story is similar to **Daniel 3**, where **Daniel** and his three young Hebrew friends refuse to worship the golden image established by King Nebuchadnezzar; but it is probably even more similar to the story in **Daniel 6**, where the magi plotted against **Daniel** for praying to ADONAI and not praying to Darius. In each of these three accounts, allegiance to the LORD and the Torah proved to be rewarded by God with the gift of life. Here in **Esther 3**, the plot of the story is intensified with a detailed account of the plot to destroy **the Jews** in a way that was unparalleled in the book of **Daniel**. The author writes in such a way that you can almost smell death approaching.²⁹