

Haman's Plan to Annihilate All the Jews

3: 7-15

Everyone loves a great adventure story, and **Esther** is one of the best. Unfortunately, **her** story has all the ingredients of a fairy tale and often gets treated like one - part Cinderella, part Beauty and the Beast. A beautiful maiden comes out of obscurity to win **the king's** heart and become **his** bride. **The king** falls under the spell of an evil villain, but is freed by the courageous resourcefulness of **his** enchanting queen, as **he** succumbs to **her** wise influence. Perhaps it is our longing for the "happy ever after" in our own stories that leaves us clinging to fairy-tale interpretations of the Bible. But **Esther's** story wasn't a fairy tale. It was, in reality, much closer to a nightmare.⁴¹