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The King Gave His Signet Ring to Haman 3: 10-11

The king gave his signet ring to Haman DIG: What is a signet ring and what does it represent? What does this chapter add to your perception of King Ahasuerus? What half-truths does he agree with here? How did Joseph's use of the signet ring compare to that of Haman?

REFLECT: Have you ever given your authority over to someone and later regretted it? What did you do to solve the problem? How was Joseph's intent to use his signet ring different from Haman's? What four things has God given believers to mark them as members of His Kingdom? Is there any way possible that we can lose our inheritance? Why or why not?



King Ahasuerus, as before, was easily influenced by his **magi (1:16-22** and **2:2-4)**. He accepted **Haman's** advice: **If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them (3:9a). The king**, assuming that the scattered **people** in question were distant aliens, hostile to him and **his** reign, handed over **his royal** authority to **Haman**. **So, the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews (3:10).** A document was made official by stamping **the king's ring** in wax on the document itself. The wax seal served as **the king's** signature, representing **his** authority throughout the empire **(Esther 3:12, 8:2** and **8; Genesis 41:42; Daniel 6:17; Haggai 2:23)**. By giving **his signet ring** to **Haman**, **Ahasuerus** was

allowing **the enemy of the Jews**, as **Haman** was now called, to send out a proclamation to the empire in **the king's** name.

When he was first introduced in **3:1**, **Haman** is referred to as **son of Hammedatha, the Agagite**. That name is repeated here, but with the additional phrase, **the enemy of the Jews.** This was a blood chilling statement, because it meant that all the power and influence of the Persian Empire was about to come down on the Israelites because of **Haman's** arrogant pride. Five times in the book of **Esther**, **Haman** is called **the enemy of the Jews (**here, **7:6, 8:1, 9:10** and **9:24)**. At this time, **Haman's** powerful motive of personal revenge was hidden from **the king.**

Just as Pharaoh gave Joseph his **signet ring** as prime minister, and second in command of Egypt (see my commentary on **Genesis, to see link click Jv – Joseph as Prime Minister**), so **Ahasuerus** gave **Haman** his **signet ring** as prime minister, and second in command of the Medo-Persian Empire. The primary difference was that where Joseph used his power for good (see my commentary on **Genesis Jw – The Seven Years of Abundance in Egypt Came to an End, and the Seven Years of Famine Began**), **Haman** planned to use it for evil.

Keep the money, literally *the silver is given to you,* **the king said to Haman (3:11a). Ahasuerus** seemingly turned down the money here, and **3:13** declares that the Persians would be allowed **to plunder their goods**. However, **4:7** and **7:4** suggest that **the king** would receive at least some of the spoils. **The king**, without verifying the information or being concerned for his subjects, said: **And do with the people as you please (3:11b).** Sometimes rulers give authority to others without realizing the consequences. This seems to be the case here. Little did he know that Queen **Esther** was a Jewess and would be slaughtered like the others in **Haman's** wicked plan.

The king did not take the time to find out more details. **His** delegation of authority was impossible to avoid with such a huge empire to rule over, but the key is knowing who you are delegating to. Whether **Ahasuerus** knew **Haman** all that well is not revealed. Nevertheless, the order was given and the life-changing events were set in motion. ADONAI's great reversal of the fortunes of **Haman** and **the Jews** given to us in **9:5** where we learn that **the Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them.**

King Ahasuerus put his **signet ring** on the **finger** of **Haman** and, as a result,

gave *him* all the power and influence of the Persian Empire. **The signet ring** proved that he was the authentic representative of **the king.** For believers today, **it is God who establishes us in Christ, He** has **anointed us, sealed us, and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge (Second Corinthians 1:21-22 NASB).** ADONAI'S **signet ring**, **His seal** of ownership as it were, **the Holy Spirit**, gives *us* all the power and influence of the Kingdom **of God**, and proves that we are authentic representatives of **the KING of kings (Revelation 19:16).**

As admirable as they might be, Paul's ultimate claim to authenticity as **ADONAI's** messenger was not his loyalty, honesty, reliability, or any other personal traits. It was what **the Lord** had done for him. Paul describes four eternal works that **God** had done in his life with four verbs: **establishes, anointed, sealed** and **gave**.

First, **God establishes us in Christ** at the moment of salvation. This is the work of saving grace that puts believers into union with **Him (Romans 8:1, 16:11; First Corinthians 1:30, 3:1, 7:22; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:8; Colossians 1:2** and **28, 4:7)** and with each other. Paul's authenticity was so interconnected with that of the church at Corinth, that to deny his relationship with them would have been to deny the reality of their own spiritual life. Because they were fellow believers, by attacking Paul's authenticity, they were ripping the fabric of the church's spiritual unity. Since Paul was their spiritual father **(First Corinthians 4:15)**, to deny *his* authenticity was, figuratively, to saw off the branch on which *they* were sitting.

Secondly, **ADONAI** has **anointed us.** To anoint someone is to commission them for service **(Exodus 28:41; Numbers 3:31; First Samuel 15:1, 16:1-13; Second Samuel 2:4; First Kings 1:39, 5:1, 19:16; Psalm 89:20)**. The Greek verb *chrio,* meaning *anointed*, appears four times in the New Covenant, each time it refers to Yeshua **(Luke 4:18; Acts 4:27** and **10:38; Hebrews 1:9)**. The related noun *chrisma* describes the anointing *all* believers have when they are indwelt with **the** Holy **Spirit** (see my commentary on **The Life of Christ Bw – What God Does For Us at the Moment of Faith**).

Thirdly, **He sealed us.** The word Greek word *sphragizo,* or *sealed*, refers to stamping an identifying mark on something. When **Haman** took his **signet ring** and pressed it into some soft wax on a document, he was sealing it with the mark of **the king**. This also refers to believers being stamped with **the seal** of **the KING**, which is **the Holy Spirit**, whose presence identifies them as **His** true and eternal possession, whom **He** will protect and keep. **Having believed, you were marked**

in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance (Ephesians 1:13b-14a).

Fourthly, **the Lord gave** believers **the Holy Spirit in** their **hearts as a pledge. The** indwelling **Holy Spirit** is not only the anointing and **seal** but also the down payment or guarantee of believers' eternal **inheritance**, the first installment of future glory. **Praise be God, Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who, in keeping with His great mercy, has caused us, through the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah from the dead, to be born again to a living hope, to an inheritance that cannot decay, spoil or fade, kept safe for you in heaven (First Peter 1:3-4 CJB). Now it is God who . . . has given us the Holy Spirit was a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come (Second Corinthians 5:5).**

Dear Heavenly Father, We thank you for your loving care. Thank you for caring about us even when we are not mindful of You. Thank you for loving us first and sending Your Son to die on our behalf. Your gifts are never ending, as is our praise for You. When we come to the end of ourselves and accept the great gift of your Son, thank You for sealing us with the ***mark*** *of Your Kingdom,* ***guaranteeing our inheritance****.* ***After you heard the message of truth – the Good News of your salvation – and when you put your trust in Him, you were sealed with the promised Ruach Ha'Kodesh. He is the guarantee of our inheritance, until the redemption of His possession – to His glorious praise (Ephesians 1:13-14)!***

Praise You for Your great love, mercy and for removing our sins as far away as the East is from the West. ***For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His mercy for those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us (Psalms 103:11-12).*** *How thankful Your children are for the joy that one day soon, we will live with You in your holy heaven of peace and joy for all eternity! Praise You for giving Yeshua's righteousness to all who love you, as their entrance key to heaven.* ***He made the One who knew no sin to become a sin offering on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (Second Corinthians 5:21).*** *Your children love, worship You dear daddy! In Yeshua's holy name and power of His resurrection. Amen*