

Esther 4 • How God Works in the World

1. Introduction

- a. An Agagite is a descendant of King of **Agag**, ruler of the **Amalekites** whom **Saul** failed to completely conquer per God's orders. (See 1 Sam. 15)
- b. The Amalekites as descendants of **Esau** and the Jews as descendants of **Jacob** embodies the strife between the elder and the younger.
- c. Haman – the descendant of Agag – is a major type of **Antichrist**, a king beside the Euphrates River who seeks to eradicate God's people through **genocide**.

2. (v.1-3) This is both the complete spiritual and physical **eradication** of God's people.

3. (v.4-12) Mordecai's personal example is that personal **risk** will have be undertaken.

4. (v.13-17) Mordecai's counsel:

- a. He appeals to her inner thoughts and feelings to do the **right thing**.
- b. He points out she will eventually be **discovered** and suffer the same fate.
- c. He emphasizes that whether or not she remains silent, God will **protect** His people. Therefore He will **protect** her as well if she speaks up.
- d. He proposes this is the **purpose** God had in mind for her all along.

e. Taken altogether: Esther is not queen for her own **sake** but for God's **sake**; therefore she **IS** in the **right** place at the **right** time.

5. (v.13-17) Esther's response: She got people involved **spiritually**. However God would use her, she did not want to do so without **spiritual** support. She will approach the King of Heaven in the same manner as the king of the earth: "**If it pleases the king**". (Est. 5:4; 5:8)

6. How God Works in the World

- a. **Disobey vs. Plan**: We can **violate** the natural order and **disobey** God's commands.
- b. **Demand vs. Pray**: We can assume that we **understand** what is needed and expect God to agree and answer our prayers **that way**.
- c. **Despair vs. Trust & Obey**: We can assume God doesn't **answer** prayer or **respond** to our needs and live as though there is nothing but the **natural order**.