

WHAT IS HAMAN'S IDENTITY?



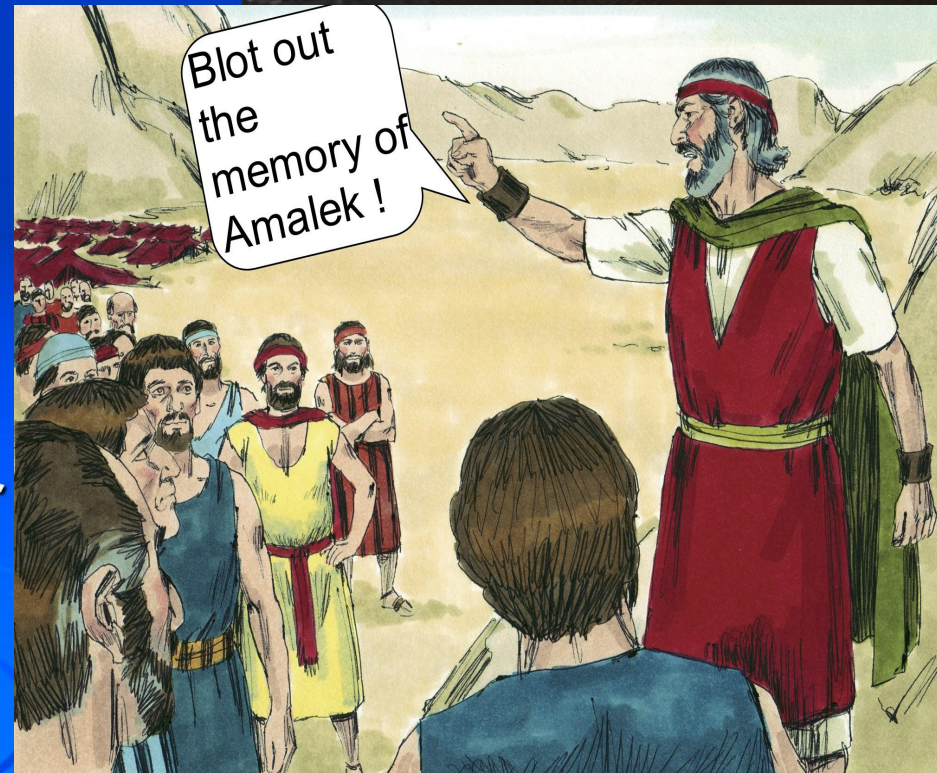
- Esther 3:1 Haman the Agagite
- Haman's identity is central to this story
- Is Haman truly a descendant of Amalek and Agag?
- Some scholars say that Agag is the TITLE of all kings of Amalek
- The term *Agagi* might be only connecting Haman to the “spirit of Amalek”
- Has everything to do with the irrational hatred of Jews by gentiles since time immemorial

THE ISSUE OF AMALEK

JACOB AND ESAU



- Gen.25:21 – 24 *“There are two nations in your womb. From birth they will be two rival peoples.....”*
- Esau’s grandson is Amalek Gen. 36:12
- Ex. 17:13 – 16 *“Because their hand was against the throne of Yah, Adonai will fight Amalek generation after generation”*



STORY OF ESTHER IS CONTEMPORARY



- Haman bore the Spirit of Amalek
- Either Amalek OR Israel survives
- Gentile governments, Christians, Muslims have all tried to wipe out the Jews
- Irrational hatred
- Church denominations are not immune from Anti-Semitism
- Rev. 18:4

SHOW NO RESPECT TO GOD'S ENEMIES !




- Mordechai failed to show respect to Haman
- Jews had no issue in bowing, it was not against God
- Mordechai fully understood the protocols and no doubt usually followed them
- The issue for his refusal to bow to Haman? Haman bore the Spirit of Amalek
- Believers owe no respect to God's enemies, no matter who they are or what they call themselves



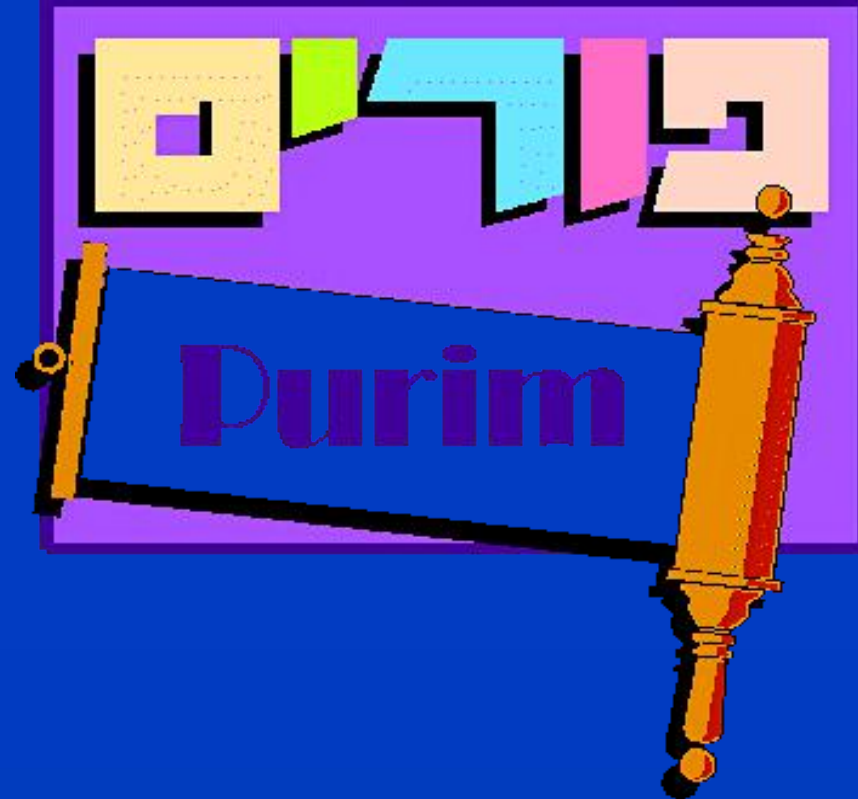
HAMANS ACTIONS WERE NOT BASED ON IMPULSE

- It takes planning to eradicate 2-3 million people !
- In Nisan he began casting lots
- Cast lots every day to find the most propitious day for the slaughter of the Jews
- Magi would have cast the lots and interpreted
- Babylonian names used for Hebrew calendar

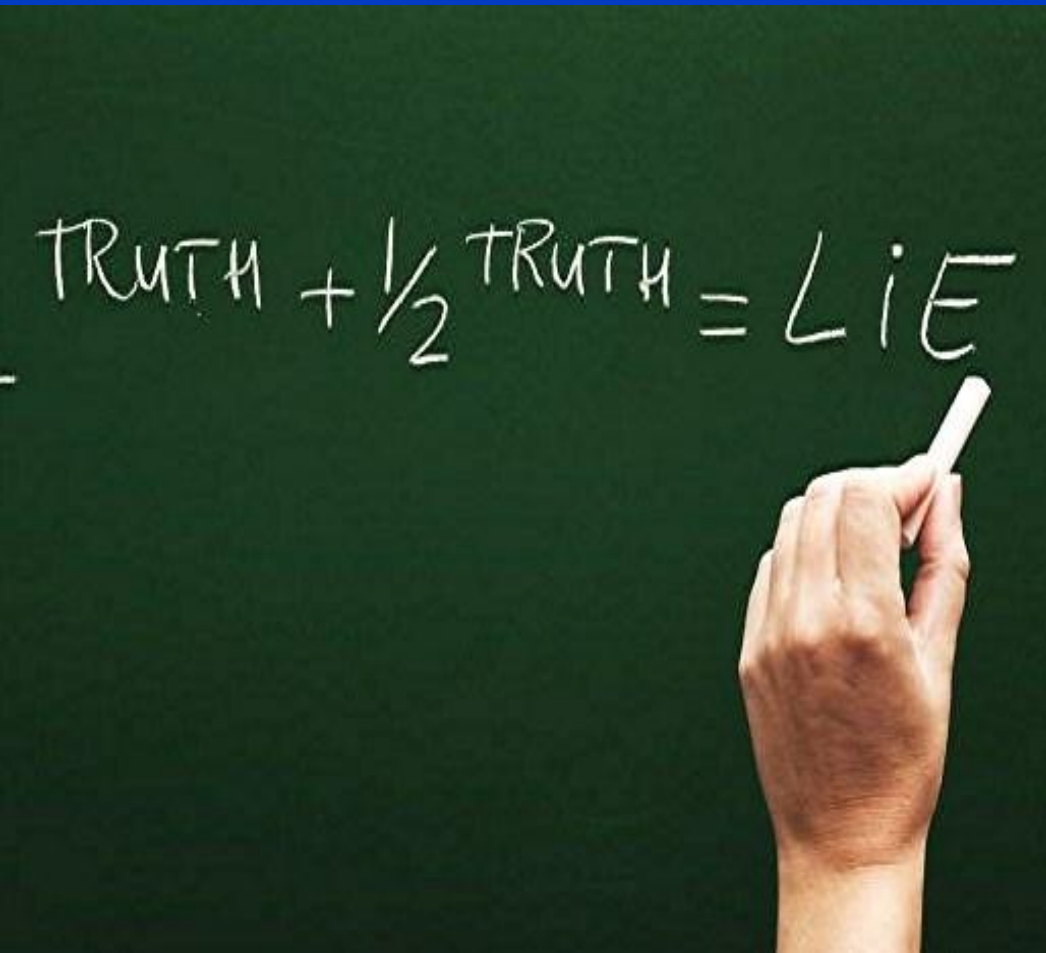
Correspondence of Babylonian - Hebrew calendars				
N	Name of the months			
	Babylonian		Hebrew	
1 ^o		nīsannu	nissàn	נִיסָן
2 ^o		ayyāru	'iyyār	אֵיָר
3 ^o		simannu	siwān	סִיוֹן
4 ^o		du'ūzu	tammūz	תַּמּוּז
5 ^o		ābu	'abh	אָב
6 ^o		ulūlū	'elūl	אֵלּוּל
7 ^o		tašrītu	tishri	תִּשְׁרִי
8 ^o		arahsamna	marcheshwan	מַרְחֶשְׁוָן
9 ^o		kisilīmu	kislēw	כֶּסֶלּוּ
10 ^o		tebētu	tebhèth	טֵבֵת
11 ^o		šabāt	shebhat	שֶׁבֶט
12 ^o		addāru	adhār	אֲדָר א'

PUR

- *Pur* = Akkadian word meaning “lot”
- Hebrews added an i-m and made it plural “lots”
- *Goral* = usual Hebrew word for “lots”
- Purim used ONLY in the Book of Esther
- Casting of lots to: answer questions, solve problems, establish timing
- Haman had lots cast for 11 months, every day

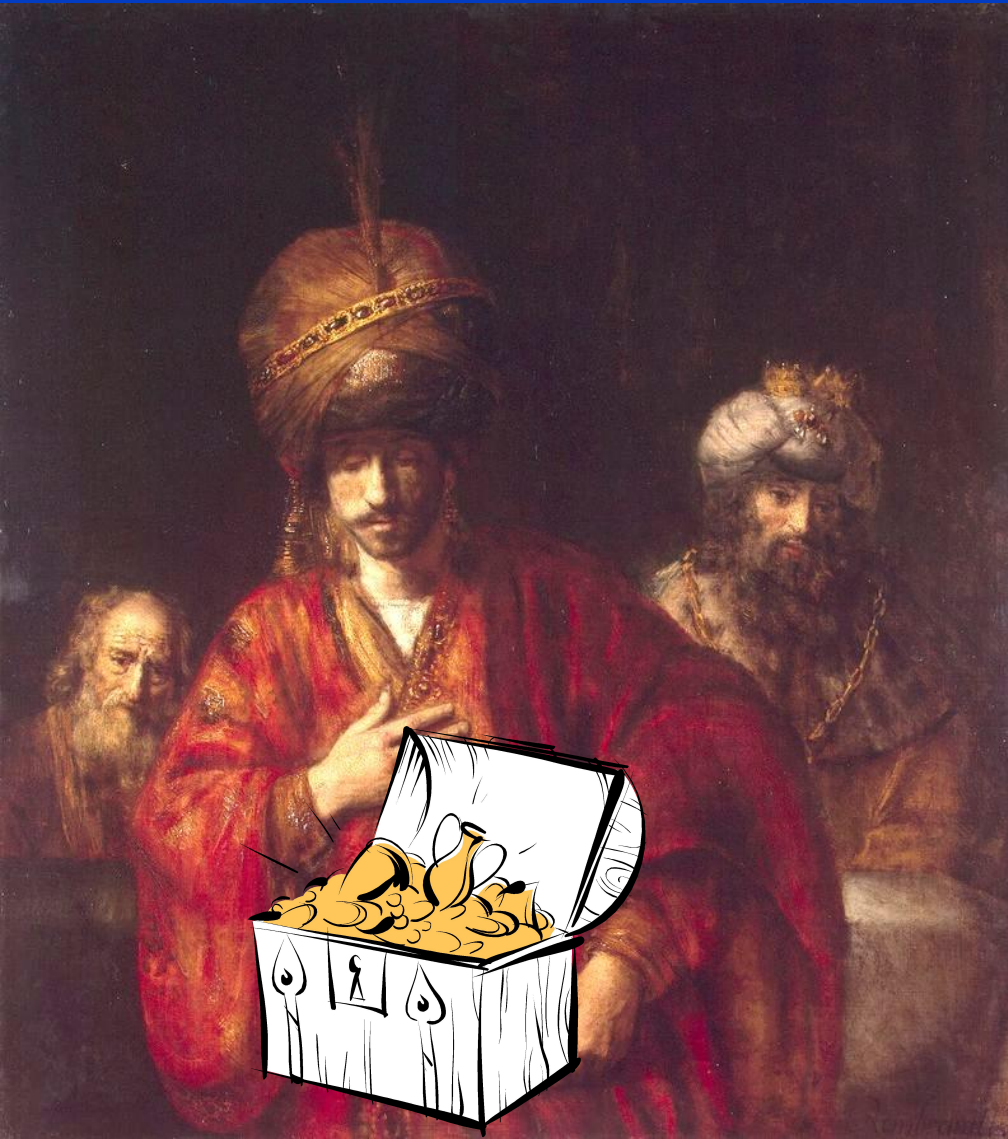


HAMAN BUILDS HIS CASE BASED ON DECEPTION



- A truth, then a 1/2 truth, followed by a lie
- TRUTH: A particular people is scattered & dispersed throughout the Persian Empire
- 1/2 TRUTH: Jews did have different laws, but followed most customs of the Persians
- LIE: Jews don't obey the Imperial Law of the King of Persia

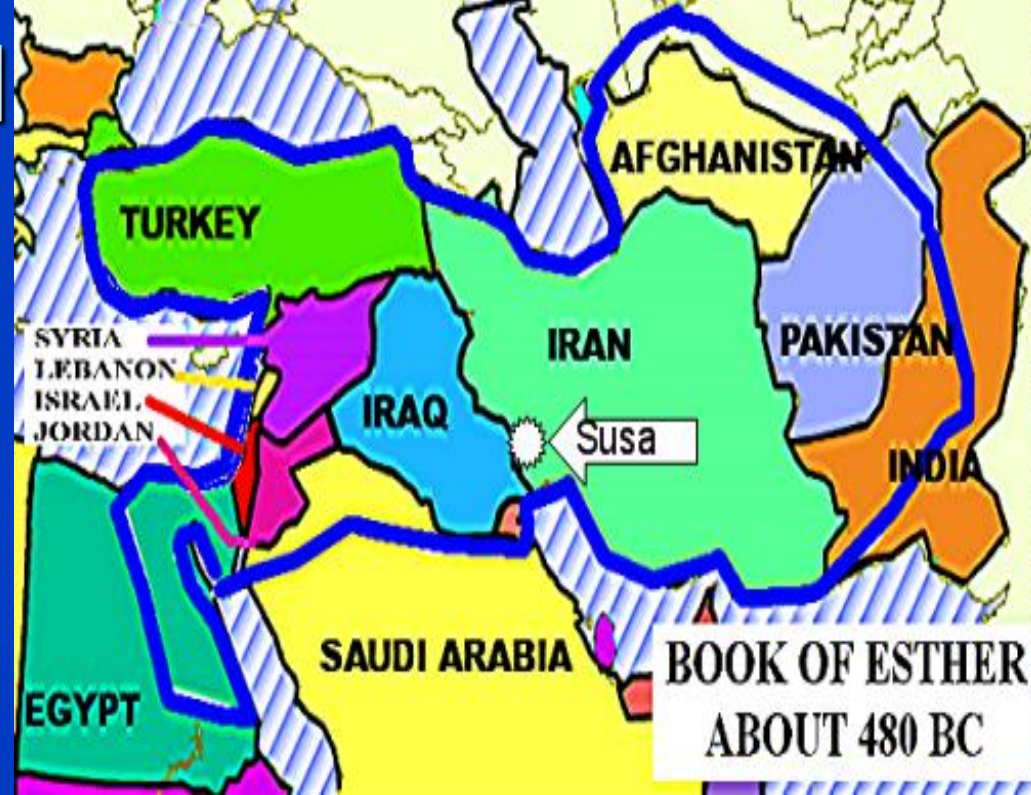
HAMAN OFFERS A FORTUNE TO KILL THE JEWS



- Haman thought the king wouldn't want to harm his tax base
- Offered 330 talents of silver in exchange
- King likely thought this offer showed Haman's sincere concern for the Empire
- Haman was a wealthy man, but now wanted political power
- King Xerxes doesn't seem to know WHO the people are that Haman wants destroyed

PROCLAMATION IS ISSUED

- Proclamation to kill the Jews is issued on Nisan 13th, the day before Passover !
- However the day for the extermination was to be in 11 months, on Adar 13th
- Herodotus says it would take 3 months to reach ever person in the Empire





- The proclamation is posted in Susa
- The citizens are confused and upset
- No one saw this coming
- What happens if you say NO ??
- Most citizens wanted no part of this, but others (like in Nazi Germany) saw it as an opportunity to advance themselves and/or to get rich



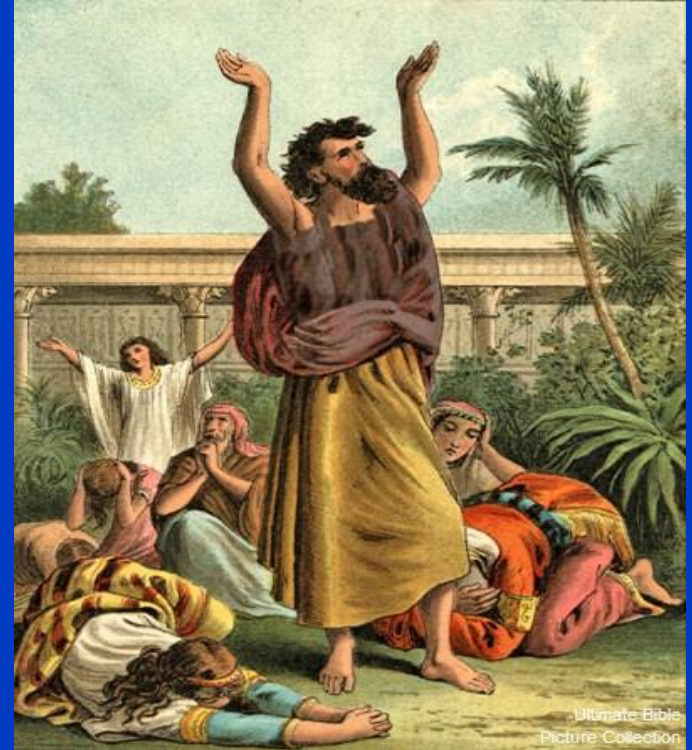
ESTHER CHAPTER 4: THE MOOD DARKENS



- The fun, frivolous mood of silly antics and drunken parties ends
- Mordechai falls to pieces when he hears of the decree
- He knows he instigated it by not bowing to Haman
- Yet, he shows no regret



DRAMATIC EXPRESSIONS OF GRIEF



Ultimate Bible
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- Mordechai displays the standard way of mourning with tearing clothes, ashes, sackcloth, wailing
- Today we find this public display of emotion uncomfortable
- Mordechai couldn't go to his usual place at the King's Gate because of wearing sackcloth
- Why didn't Jews leave Persia and go back to Judah to avoid being killed?