

THE BIRTHRIGHT

John Turner - Jan 17, 2007

Hint: Read through the narrative first. Then return and visit the references to get the most from this devotional message.

As our church studies the book of Eshter on Wednesday evenings, we are learning about how that old evil Haman becomes high and lifted up above all people and nations in the extremely large and powerful Persian kingdom of Ahasuerus. King Ahasuerus put Haman in charge of everything except his own crown and orders all his subjects to reverence (worship) Haman (Est. 3:2); but yet, there is one Jew named Mordecai, who absolutely galls Haman by not following the king's order to bow down to Haman. Haman wanted EVERY knee to bow down (Dan. 3:6) and worship him as they would worship God (II Thes. 2:4). Haman wanted to kill this reproachful Jew; but felt it was beneath his dignity to kill Mordecai alone; therefore he determined that he would seek to kill all the Jews in the whole kingdom (which, at that moment in history, would include virtually every Jew in the world).

Why would this man Haman, who held virtually all power and wealth in the civilized world, have such an obsession (Isaiah 14:14) to be held in reverence by every living soul and NO EXCEPTIONS? A big part of the answer is found in Haman's heritage (Gen. 3:15); for that same compulsive preoccupation to be worshiped is found in his ancestry throughout the Bible. Likewise, Mordecai's stubborn refusal to worship Haman is found in Mordecai's own ancestral lineage.

Tracing Haman's ancestry back, We find (Est. 3:1) that Haman is a descendant of Agag, who is a king of Amalak (I Sam. 15:8) whom Samuel killed (I Sam 15:33). Recall from the book of Exodus, that Amalek had tried to exterminate Israel when they were at their weakest (Exo. 17:8) in the wilderness (compare Matt. 4:3 and Matt. 2:13) after coming out of Egypt. Throughout Bible history, Amalek was a thorn in the side of Israel.

Looking still further back, we find that Amalek was an offspring of Eliphaz (Gen. 36:12 & Job 42:9), who was a son of (Gen. 36:12) Esau (brother to Jacob / Israel).

So what was the common thread among these ungodly fathers and sons that caused them to hate the Jews and constantly seek their destruction (even so today)? Well, look at Esau. He actually held the birthright to "The Name" ({Shem Gen 11:4} {Jewish name for God is "Hashem"}) and "The Seed" (Gal. 3:19) in his hand; yet the Bible tells us that Esau despised that holy spiritual birthright (Gen. 25:34) and threw it away to fulfill the desires of his flesh (Php 3:19). Afterwards, Esau sought to regain that birthright with tears (Heb. 12:17) but could not.

Jacob / Israel, on the other hand, desired that Godly birthright more than anything else (Mat. 13:46), and was chosen of God to receive it (John 15:16). We might look at "Jacob" ("the supplanter") and think how he lied, cheated and connived, and how unworthy he was to obtain that birthright, and receive a *NEW NAME* (Gen. 32:28), Israel ("God prevails"). As we think of Jacob's unworthiness, we might also think of our own unworthiness to obtain such a birthright from Christ Himself (II Cor. 5:17) along with a *NEW NAME* (Rev. 3:12) in glory.

Psalms 119:41 ¶ VAU. Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word.
