

# ESTHER 3

Story and names



# ESTHER 3

- Mordechai refuses to bow – for he is a Jew.. Cannot bow... not to a agagite? Or is it pride?
- Haman is so angry that he wants to destroy not only Mordechai, but his whole people
- The lot or ‘pur’ falls on the last month
- Haman offers 375 tons of silver, but the king does not want the money and gives his signet ring – sign of authority
- Everyone in the city of Susa is shocked but the king and Haman sit down to drink



# **NAMES . . .**

- **Haman: magnificent or ‘noiseful’, also named after Humban, Elamite god**
- **Esther – “Star”**
- **Mordechai – “worshipper of Marduk”  
Descendant of King Saul.**
- **Ahasuerus - prince; head; chief**
- **Vashti “best”**



# MORDECHAI

- Mordechai –Descendant of King Saul.
- **Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei (from the house of Saul), the son of Kish (the father of Saul),**
- **meaning of name:** worshipper of Marduk, mesopotamian chief god.
- Position at court, mesopotamian name: well integrated in the culture – but that is not what will protect you!



# ESTHER – “STAR”

- Istar, Astarte – Mesopotamian goddess. Hints of mesopotamian myths in story.
- Position at court, ,Mesopotamian name: well integrated in the culture – but that is not what will protect you!



# HAMAN

- Agagite – descendent of Agag, a Amelekite king, according to Jewish rabbinic tradition
- Amelekites
  - attacked the rearguard of Israel in the desert
  - Brought a curse on them
  - Saul captures their king Agag, and brings the curse on himself by taking the spoils
  - By killing their enemies and not taking the spoils, the jews were able to get rid of the curse. (Esther 9)



# FEAST OF PURIM

- Not mentioned in the books of Moses or by prophets
- Feast of reversals, change from winter to spring
- This year 6th/7th of March, so in this series of sermons
- Purim leads up to Pesach (30 days),
- Compare to carnival to Easter (40 days of fasting)
- Drinking, dressing up, children+grown up



# PODCAST (IN DUTCH)

- Scheppingsdrift podcast eo Esther
- <https://www.eo.nl/artikel/scheppingsdrift-duikt-in-het-verhaal-van-esther>





# PURIM TO CELEBRATE...

- That the God of Israel would always be faithful to His people, and that the Jews would ultimately always be able to survive and taunt their enemies
- A principle at work through all ages, not just something that really happened once, long ago



# HOLOCAUST MONUMENT THE HAGUE



GEDENK WAT AMALEK U GEDAAN HEEFT...  
...VERGEET HET NIET.

DEUT : 25. 17. 19

זכור את אשר - עשה לך עמלק... לא תשכח



# PURIM 1953

- Death of Josef Stalin
- Who was on the brink of starting a anti-semitic campaign.
- “Purim in 1953 fell on March 1. On that day, Haman-Stalin had a stroke. Soon came the tyrant’s death. A heavenly stroke brought down the villain on the eve of the terrible stroke Stalin was about to inflict upon the Jewish people.”

