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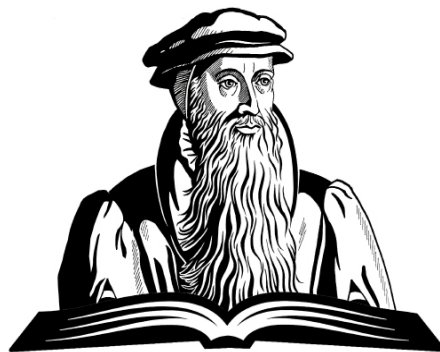
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 98

Esther—Haman's Plot

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
- 98. Esther—Haman's Plot**
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 98

Esther—Haman’s Plot

The Book of Esther, chapters 3 through 5

Memory Verse

*“And so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law:
and if I perish, I perish.”*

Esther 4:16

Esther, Chapter 3

In Esther, chapter 3, we suddenly read a new name. It is the name of Haman, whom, we read, was promoted and set by King Ahasuerus “above all the princes that were with him.” We soon get the impression of a proud, power-hungry man who knew just how to get his way with a fickle and indifferent king.

The first hint of trouble comes when Mordecai, Queen Esther’s cousin, would not bow to the new president. He tried to remain unnoticed, but when it was pointed out to Haman by Mordecai’s fellow guards, Haman was “full of wrath.” His wrath became even greater when he heard that Mordecai was a Jew. Haman himself was a descendent of Agag, king of the Amalekites, Israel’s sworn enemies. Haman realized that here was an opportunity to take dreadful revenge upon the Jews.

Haman wasted no time. First he consulted the pagan priests for a favourable time. Then, after alarming the king with tales of “a certain people scattered abroad” and making them seem highly dangerous and damaging to the empire, Haman drafted a new law which stated that on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, “all Jews, both young and old, little children and women” would be killed, and their spoil taken for a prey.

Esther, Chapter 4

When Mordecai read the new law, he “rent his clothes and put on sackcloth with ashes, and... cried with a loud and bitter cry.” He realized that he was the cause of the death and destruction which loomed over all his people. What could he do to save them? Mordecai hurried over to the palace of Queen Esther to inform her. When Esther read a copy of the law which Mordecai sent to her, she was full of dismay. Her shock became even greater when she read that Mordecai wanted her to go see the king and plead for her people. Esther shrank back. She reminded Mordecai that no one, not even the Queen, was permitted to come into the king’s presence without being called. The penalty for this was death, unless, in a display of mercy, the king held out his golden sceptre. Esther had not been called for thirty days already. Was the king tired of her too? Or perhaps he had already found out that she was Jewish. Mordecai then replied with the memorable words: “If

thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther relented, and said: "And so will I go in unto the King, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish."

Esther, Chapter 5

In chapter 5 we see Esther entering into the presence of the king. Everyone must have held their breath. Then the king held out the golden sceptre! Events then begin to unfold quickly. Queen Esther invited the king and Haman to a banquet that night, promising that she will then tell the king her request. At the banquet however, Esther again hesitated, and instead, invited the king and Haman to another banquet the next day, promising that she would tell the king then. Haman swelled with joy and pride. Another banquet with just him and the king and queen! However, coming through one of the gates, he suddenly noticed Mordecai still not bowing! At home he told everyone about the banquet, and another invitation, but also how the sight of Mordecai spoiled all his joy. His admiring friends and family convinced Haman to erect a very tall pole, and to speak to the king first thing in the morning about hanging Mordecai on it. Of course! thought Haman, this would make his joy complete! That same night the gallows were erected. Haman must have fallen asleep with a smile, eager for tomorrow to come soon.

Behind this dreadful stake, one can almost picture the shape of a cross. How the devils must have cheered when the cross was erected, with the Lord Jesus already firmly nailed to it. Little did Satan realize how the very death of Christ would crush his head and deliver guilty sinners from his grasp.

Review Questions

Esther 3

1. What did the king do to show that Haman had permission to kill the Jews?
 - a. He hanged Mordecai.
 - b. He reached out the golden sceptre.
 - c. He gave him his ring.
 - d. He gve him ten thousand talents.

Esther 4

2. "And in every _____ whithersoever the king's _____ and his _____ came, there was a great _____ among the Jews, and _____, and _____, and _____; and many lay in _____ and _____."

3. What were some of Esther's objections when Mordecai told her that she should go to the king to plead for her people?

a. _____

b. _____

4. What were some of Mordecai's arguments convincing Esther to go anyway?

a. _____

b. _____

5. What did Esther ask Mordecai to do before she would go to the king?

Discussion Questions

1. Strangely enough, we do not read the name of God anywhere in the book of Esther. Nor do we read of references to prayer. Where in chapter 4 do we see evidence of Mordecai's faith in God's protection and providence?

2. When Esther appeared before the king, not having been called by him, under Persian law, she deserved to die. In a display of mercy, the king held out the golden sceptre to Esther. In what way can the golden sceptre be compared with Christ? (See Hebrews 4:14, 16)

3. What do we learn about Haman’s character in these verses from Esther 5?

Esther 5:9 _____

Esther 5:10–12 _____

Esther 5:13 _____

Esther 5:14 _____

Have you ever desired harm to come upon those who wronged you? What does Romans 12:19 say about this?

4. After boasting about his riches and greatness, Haman cried out, “Yet all this availeth me nothing.” What does this tell you about happiness, our desires, and the things of this world? What can we learn from 1 John 2:15–17?
