



Esther

A stylized, minimalist profile of a woman's face in a light beige tone, facing right. The features are defined by simple lines, including the eye, nose, and lips. The face is set against a larger, abstract shape of the same color. A small, light green circular element with a leafy branch is positioned near the top of the face.

SOVEREIGNTY

IN SILENCE

“The Deck Is Stacked” by Pastor Dan Stockum



Esther

SOVEREIGNTY IN SILENCE

Esther 2:19-3:15

¹⁹ When the virgins were assembled a second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate.

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²⁰ But Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality just as Mordecai had told her to do,

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²¹ During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.

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²² But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai.

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²³ And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were impaled on poles. All this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.

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3:1 After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles.

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² All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him.

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But Mordecai would not kneel down
or pay him honor.

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³ Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?"

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⁴ Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply. Therefore they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behavior would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew.

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⁵ When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged.

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⁶ Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai.

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Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

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⁸ Then Haman said to King Xerxes,
“There is a certain people dispersed among
the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom
who keep themselves separate.

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Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them.

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⁹ If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king's administrators for the royal treasury.”

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¹⁰ So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

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¹¹ “Keep the money,” the king said to Haman,
“and do with the people as you please.”

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¹² Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders.

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¹³ Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—

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on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

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¹⁴ A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so they would be ready for that day.

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¹⁵ The couriers went out, spurred on by the king's command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was bewildered.

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Where the problem starts:

ego

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**How the problem grows:
all of your kind is like this**

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**The solution:
already in place**



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