

Haman: Amalek's Last Stand

Good morning, class. I can think of no better way to enjoy the gate's color scheme than to secretly slip into the home of Haman, around the year 465 B.C., for an enlightening conversation with one of the most dangerous criminals in the world. Don't judge, however; he may be lurking around *your* "house," and may yet again appear on the evening news as a world leader. Listen carefully now while I crash his party.

Haman! Haman!

Who? What? Quiet folks. It's late. I need to rest up for another banquet tomorrow with the king and... Queen Esther. Zeresh, I'm retiring to my room. I have just heard my name called twice. It must be one of the gods. Apparently they are pleased with my progress. I must get alone now. Goodnight.

Haman, come in where it's quiet. I have much to say to you. I am not one of the gods but am an ambassador of the God of gods.

O my, yes. What a privilege. First the king, then the queen, and now you. I give you my undivided attention.

So you want to be like the Most High, do you? [Is. 14:14]

O no, er... the king is number one. I'm simply responding to his needs. He cannot bear the weight of governing the world without help. Even the queen senses my importance to the administration. But if you have any wisdom, I do intend to follow your guidance. Already the spirit of the gods has indicated by lot the most favorable month for eliminating the Jews. [Est. 3:7] This will be of great benefit to the Kingdom of Persia and Media.

This is what I must speak to you about, Haman. Your approach is not quite right. You are coming from the wrong direction. I want to tell you a better way.

Oh... then tell me. Please!

What are the colors decorating the court of the garden of the king's palace and the colors of the royal robes? [Est. 1:6; 8:15] What do they mean?

White, blue, purple, besides the silver, gold, fine linen, and colored marble. As for their meaning... I've never given much thought to it. Are you going to teach me some of the inner secrets of royalty? You've got a captivated audience!

Haman, you have offered to pay the king multiplied millions in silver to achieve your desire upon the Jews. And when they are destroyed your gain by their property and wealth will soon be exhausted. This is a backdoor approach. It is too short-sighted for a discerning administrator like you. I want to tell you a much wiser plan, through the "front door" of this nation within your empire. You are entitled to infinitely more wealth if you can understand the proper access.

Oh, by all means! You mean even the king doesn't know what you're about to reveal?

No. Only you, Haman. Furthermore, I'm about to open up secrets of relationship with *all* of your subjects, from the lowliest slave to the very king and queen.

Thank you a thousand times for such a high honor. I assure you I'll be faithful until the entire world is one great sheepfold under my... ah... the king's dominion. If only I had drunk a little less wine. Please speak slowly and carefully. I want to retain everything.

I'm glad you are so teachable, dear Haman. These principles are sure to enhance and perfect your greatness... if you will follow them from your *heart*, for they concern the very entrance into the heart of men and women everywhere, Jew as well as Gentile. Once you establish this Way of Life, your subjects will love you with a submission and willingness you never dreamed possible. Those who refuse will come

under the very judgment of the God of all gods. He will personally vindicate and authorize and empower your leadership.

Yes, Yes! Tell me this priceless secret. I shall follow it implicitly.

The secret was first revealed to Israel by Moses when they left Egypt to become the nation which would live by this truth.

O no...

As long as their kings obeyed, their dominion increased until one of them became the greatest king the world has ever known, much, much greater than even King Ahasuerus, though it was a dominion higher than merely physical and geographic.

What happened to him?

He failed to observe the principles. Most all the kings which followed also failed until God turned them over to Babylon and now your kingdom.

So dominion rises or falls according to this special pathway into authority?

Yes. Moses was instructed to build a temple and courtyard where their God would dwell in peace with His people. Every bit of material from the gate to the throne contained in symbolic form the various elements of truth concerning His government among them. The gate was a tri-colored, fine linen hanging in which the essentials of authority were portrayed. Every other symbol thereafter only enlarged on these four elements until they reached their summation in the throne of the inmost sanctuary.

What were the essentials? Wait, let me call my scribe. We must have it in writing. Tashlana, come here, quickly! Copy everything you hear. A messenger from the Highest God is telling me the secrets of dominion and relationship, a front-door access to the wealth of the Jews and dominion over them. I'll even share some of it with you, Tash.... Thank you for waiting, Ambassador ahh...

Kovesh.

Kovesh? Has to do with dominion, in Hebrew, from what little I know of it. Yes, you do represent the God of gods. I feel highly honored. Now what are the four elements?

They correspond with the four basic needs of human nature. That's why it's the gate, or proper entrance into relationship. To attempt any kind of relationship, be it friendship, marriage, parenting, or dominion, on any other basis is to encounter major problems in the form of emotional insecurity. This is what I call a backdoor relationship, because this insecurity blocks the front door of honesty, openness, and transparency. And too often the backdoor leads to manipulation, force, rape, plunder, and finally murder and treachery. Are you still listening?

Y... yes.

You have ten sons and you are proud of them, aren't you, Haman?

Very much so.

When they were babies, you expected them to cleave to you and Zeresh for love, nourishment, protection, and comfort. They acknowledged your parental authority because you met these needs. Now look at them--all handsome and brilliant products of their father and mother. They could rebel from you if they chose, but they love and respect you, don't they?

Why, of course. They know all I have is theirs eventually.

Your wife, Zeresh: She cleaves to you in love and honor because, as her husband, you have met her needs, which are much more complex than the rudimentary needs of infants.

An understatement, of course. What a mystery a woman can be, at times!

Yet Israel's God meets these needs through what is symbolized by the simple colors of the three Temple entrances. He wanted to prepare them for the kind of relationship that endures *permanently*.

There were three entrances, each with the same three colors?

Yes, corresponding with three levels of access to relationship, but all based on the same four color principles. I'll begin with blue, because it's God's priority. The God who made the world and stars also made you and everyone. And He alone knows our deepest need, that of fellowship, love and acceptance. Haman, why do you feel so angry when Mordecai, refuses homage to you?

Oh, I... ah... well... wouldn't you say it's his rebellion?

If you took time to honestly inquire into his beliefs you would have a different opinion. The worship of God alone is what links Israel with heaven. It's their lifeline to an inner strength and well-being that goes beyond anything you can imagine. It is *your* problem, Haman. Potentially within, you have vast inner resources for dealing with the most complex issues of the kingdom. Your need to be adored and honored, actually worshiped, is evidence this inner wellspring of Life has never been tapped.

I assure you my motive is entirely...

Mordecai refuses to bow before you because, of all the Jews at Sushan, he especially has guarded his heart with all diligence [Prov. 4:23] to assure continuous access to God. Not that he does not respect you. But he knows the origin of all Life. Your reaction to him is only a ripening of your inner problem: an unfulfilled need for acceptance, love, and relationship. This is partly the reason for a woman's "mysterious" behavior.

You're making me uncomfortable; yet I think you have a point. Often when I'm frustrated with my wife's irritability, a little affection and love calm her down like magi. But if I react in anger... wow!

It's the blue of heaven. The leaders of Israel on one occasion were given a glimpse into the very abode of God.

"And they saw the God of Israel. And there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity." [Ex. 24:10]

But He is not only the God of Israel. He is the God of Persia and of Media and of you, my dear friend, if you will seek to know Him. In fact, the very Life of the Most High God can be yours as you learn to enter fellowship with Him. He will destroy your enemies, give you the very desires of your heart, and even hand you the earth as your inheritance.

Inconceivable! A god who can do this is truly the God of all gods. Tell me more!

Listen to the words of the father of the great king I mentioned. It was originally because of this father's intimacy with God that his son learned the wisdom to build such a powerful kingdom.

"Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. . . . Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of . . . the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. . . . For evildoers shall be cut off: but those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth." [Ps. 37:4-9]

This God of whom you speak sounds like a person. I wonder, could it be our gods are too impersonal, too far removed from the intimate affairs of real living?

I have only begun to reveal His personal nature, Haman. The scarlet color unlocks a marvel of wisdom no other god has been able to duplicate. The pigment is extracted from a worm. Compared to the original glory of man at his creation, we are only worms. Man in his attempt to regain it has used

the scarlet as an attempt to glorify and adorn himself, but God uses it to help us see the reality of our fallen condition. And in the process He has met our most basic and earthly needs.

I'm listening, intently!

Are you familiar with the sacrificial system of Israel's former Temple?

Only vaguely, and I'm not sure if I care to know more.

But it's vital to understanding the scarlet, Haman. And it's very simple. God and man met there, at the sacrificial altar.

Yes, I understand. Animal sacrifice is a world-wide phenomenon.

But those of Israel were very specialized. They point to the Son of God, who will become a human being like us.

Yes, that too is not unknown in the annals of history and mythology.

But this Son will give his life in untiring service, meeting every conceivable need of mortal man, from paying taxes, to miraculously multiplying a tiny lunch for thousands of people to eat. He will quiet instantly a killer storm on the sea, drive an army of demons from an insane man, counsel and deliver morally degenerated social castaways, and heal the afflicted of every known disease, including leprosy, blindness, and paralysis. He will even raise people from the dead. They will try to make Him their king, but . . .

He deserves to be King of the world! I shall help Him, and together we shall rule!

No. They will destroy Him like the animal sacrifice.

No! Ignorant fools! Why?

Because they will not understand the scarlet. The lost glory of mankind can be restored only through humility and serving others. Listen to what Israel's most godly king said of himself, but speaking actually of the coming Son of God:

"But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised by the people" [Ps. 22:6].

In the Hebrew language this word for worm is the same word for the scarlet used in their Temple. The Son of the God of gods will actually be "despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him" [Is. 53:3].

Yet through this He will bear *our* griefs and carry *our* sorrows, and heal *our* bodies. One of Israel's prophets contrasted the True God with the false gods they imported:

"Bel bows down, Nebo stoops; their idols were on the beasts and on the cattle. Your carriages were heavily loaded, a burden to the weary beast. They stoop, they bow down together; they could not deliver the burden, but have themselves gone into captivity" [Is. 46:1-2].

But Israel's God doesn't need to be borne on a cart; instead He carries us: "[You] have been upheld by Me from birth; [you] have been carried from the womb: even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you" [Is. 46:3b-4].

I don't understand. He is *God*?

You will understand when we get to the purple. For the blue of heaven's fellowship and the scarlet glory of humility and blood meet in the purple of an eternal dominion.

Can Amalek be trusted with authority?

As I continue, Haman, please remember that the highest authority arises out of the delicate balance between the blue and scarlet, which, as you may know, produce purple when blended. There is only one truly royal purple: that of the Temple of the God I represent.

In some palaces, such as that of the Grecian kings, against whom you are even now preparing war, purple is or will be the predominant color of royalty and dominion. Another powerful nation conquering almost all civilization after the Grecian Empire will also claim the imperial purple.

Do you mean our great empire will be overcome by others?

Yes. There is only one authority which is invincible. It is the dominion first made available to Israel, "and it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" [Dan 2:44b].

Look at the Jews now. Ha! They are not kings but servants of our kingdom!

Only because they failed to maintain a true perspective concerning authority.

What is it? Please! I promise I shall observe it carefully! Trust me! Tashlana, don't miss anything.

Why does authority belong to kings and administrators, fathers and husbands, Haman?

Well. . . I suppose it's to guarantee and protect the rights of the subjects of the kingdom and one's family.

What are these rights?

Oh, personal security, basic physical needs. . . .

What about a leader who would guarantee not only that, but peace, prosperity, physical and mental health, and even eternal life.

Incredible! Impossible!

Isn't that precisely what I included in the scarlet as the needs met by the Son of the One Eternal Omnipotent God?

Of course, but He is God, not man!

Haman, you're forgetting the blue. This is the Lifeline to the God of provision and inexhaustible supply.

If this God of whom you speak becomes a man. . . only then. . . unless. . . unless somehow we leaders could tap into that power. Aha, power! Yes, yes! Now, about this blue. . . and purple?

Listen carefully, Haman. There is an authority designed in eternity by which the very resources and wisdom of God become available at your command in order to guarantee and secure the supply of the needs of your subjects. And what people would, by and large, refuse submission to a leader with that kind of authority?

I understand now why you say it is the only true royal purple, for the balance of blue and scarlet are precisely what composes it. You must sit where they sit [Ez 3:15] in order to understand their needs. Yet to meet those needs you must have full access to the gods. . . or to this God you speak of. In fact I would say it has more to do with the priesthood, perhaps like giving full authority to our temple priests.

Haman, you have wisely discerned the true essence of this dominion, for it is called *a royal priesthood* [1 Pet 2:9]. The blue, purple, scarlet and fine twined linen compose the clothing of the High Priest in God's Temple. It is the government of the world by men of compassion and power, love and wisdom, mercy and truth.

My, my, it rivals the wisdom of the famed Greek philosophers. Are you sure King Ahasuerus knows nothing of this insight?

Nothing whatsoever. Only the queen knows.

The queen. . . Esther? Queen Esther? But she's only a woman! A little woman! T. . . t. . . tell me c, c. . . carefully how I might achieve this wonderful and powerful connection between heaven and earth, that I may reign. . . that is, as the king's faithful and trusted administrator.

Wait, didn't you say there were *four* elements by which we gain access to the hearts of men and kingdoms? You have given only three: the blue of heavens glory, the scarlet of

humble sacrifice and service, and the purple of royal dominion.

I'm glad to see you are so alert, Haman, despite the wine and the lateness of the hour. The fourth element is the finely twisted linen, which of course is white.

What could that possibly represent? You've covered everything. The perfect triangle of government. I think I could make it work, thanks to your wise insight, and now that of the queen.

It will not operate without this final essential, for it is the foundation for the colors, which are needleworked into the linen.

It must be extremely important, then. Tashlana, are you still awake? Don't miss this, please, my faithful scribe. You will be highly rewarded, I assure you.

The fine linen refers to righteous character, holy, pure, and spotless.

Oh, I'm so relieved! Is that all? It's too good to be true! Tashlana, did you hear? We're on our way!

Haman, I don't mean *your* righteousness; I'm referring to the infinitely pure and perfect holiness of God. There is no other but His. No other character will support the beauty and majesty and glory of the blue, purple, and scarlet. And even as white is actually the perfect blend of all the colors, so the blue, purple, and scarlet are but manifestations of God's fullness to meet our needs.

I. . . I'm confused. I'm Haman, son of Hamedatha the Agagite, descendant of the ancient Amalekites and Esau. We are a proud people, confident and strong. We are just the people for an ageless dominion, especially in view of the fact that Israel once vowed to destroy us until the very memory of us was blotted out. [Deut. 25:19]

Haman, the Amalek God wanted to "blot out" in Israel was the Amalek of Self-determinism. God was trying to bring Israel into a place of rest from their own willfulness and anxiety. He wanted to empty their self-will in the desert so they would learn that He alone is sovereign. And Amalek was *the first among the nations* or Gentiles [Numb. 24:20] to attack them as God was weakening them, preparing them for a transfer of trust from self to Him.

It's that age-old tendency in all of us to be independent of God, to ignore His plain and simple front-door approach through the gate He has provided. It is enemy number one, because knowing God's strength in place of our weakness is the very key to the heavenly dominion we're talking about.

It hurts; I can't help it. I feel you're attacking *me*—a man of integrity!

You feel insecure because you are holding on to the old root: *your* righteousness, *your* integrity. You have no foundation to receive the threefold provision of God's love. Because of *your own* goodness, you perpetually attempt to earn God's love. So you limit the Bountiful Giver of Life and Blessing to *your earnings*, which are hopelessly inadequate.

Thus you end up with a reactionary personality, relating to God and man through the back door, afraid to confront them openly, even as Amalek attacked the tired and weary Israelite stragglers from the rear (Deut 25:18). Limited to your meager self-sufficiency, you end up inferior, defensive, abusive, aggressive, and destructive, trying to find relationship and satisfaction "unlawfully."

Even King David fell into this trap when for five years he refused to face his son Absalom when Absalom murdered his half brother, Amnon. That error resulted in David's greatest nightmare ever, when the embittered and insecure Absalom almost succeeded in taking the entire kingdom away from his father.

Whole nations become warped into this framework until

they become brutal and rapacious aggressors, bringing agony and travail to humanity. Someday the whole world will refer to them as *terrorists!* Because they *fear not God*, they fear man, and become irrational and brutish. But they fight against God: *Amalek was first among the nations, but shall be last until he perishes* [Numb. 24:20]. That was prophesied by the famous prophet Balaam when he was hired by King Balak to curse Israel.

Haman, my heart bleeds for you. Your very insecurity can become the basis of transfer onto a whole new foundation. but you've got to recognize the difference between your dirty clothes and the spotless linen God wants to give you.

The Jews have always chided us, even hating us. It goes back to the time you mentioned, when we attacked them. They tell us when Moses held up his arms, their God fought against us. When he let his arms down, we gained over them. Finally two men supported his arms until we lost the battle. At that time Moses built an altar to commemorate his victory over us. [Ex. 17:8-16]

Please, Haman. I'm flesh and blood as you are. I know your pain. But try to understand. To find anything worth building on in human nature is a "losing battle." Moses called the name of the altar he built, *Jehovah Nissi*, the Lord my Banner." God had given Israel one of the most important truths of relationship, taken out of eternity and placed there in time on top of the hill. In it he is telling us how *He* relates to us, how *He* dispenses blessing to us. It is so opposite the way we relate to God and one another in our warped backdoor approach. God says, *It is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy* [Rom 9:16].

Take heart, Haman! God responds on the basis of *His* goodness, not ours. Remember the lot you cast to find the most favorable month for the destruction of the Jews? [Est. 3:7] Right there is the seed of a powerful revelation of how God responds to men. The wisest man in the world wrote: *The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord* [Prov. 16:33].

God disposes of our plans, Haman! What a relief to know it doesn't depend upon my aggression and iron fist. Everything begins and ends in *Him*, not us! But when we refuse to let Him be Lord, what begins in self-will often ends up in treachery and murder.

The implications are far-reaching, my friend. Far from degrading or minimizing you, it means every Amalekite and every Gentile has the *same access*—the Son of the only true and living God. We call it "grace," undeserved favor and blessing. And it begins with "mercy," undeserved pardon and cleansing from your old sinful self.

Believe me. . . believe this Mighty God; He is a Father and Lover. He pleads with you now, *for there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, or Amalekite, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him* [Rom. 10:12].

Look at me, Haman! Are you listening?

The die (lot) is cast.

The Jews tell me King Saul tried to exterminate us, but spared Agag. And for that reason he was punished. [1 Sam. 15]

The Agag he spared, Haman, was far more than your king. It was the reactionary and aggressive man in *himself*. When he was little in his own eyes, God anointed him to be king because his attention was on *Jehovah Nissi* [1 Sam 15:17]. But when he became important to himself, he lost his way.

He lost the entrance to the hearts of the people, *using religious sacrifice as an outward form instead of a revelation*

of access to God's mercy and grace. The people he ruled existed for his ego and neurotic lust for power and glory. He became a backdoor king, a man of ulterior motives. And God had to choose another to take his place.

You mean the one who slaughtered my people just before he ascended the throne? [1 Sam. 30]

Haman, you must not take it personally. Try to understand: God was preparing a model king who would deal with people and nations *face to face* without fear, inferiority, and subtlety. A king we would all learn from.

In fact God had brought David into such a depth of relationship with Himself, this slayer of Goliath was now free to respect and forgive the jealous king who was bent on destroying him, and that by treachery. You see what I mean about Saul failing to overcome the Agag in himself?

However, David was not quite ready. With such a personal achievement over self-vindication to his credit, God had to give him one final lesson before He gave him the throne. He must know beyond the shadow of a doubt that his ability and mastery did not come from himself, from his own righteous character, but from God. His colorful reign would be woven into the finely twisted white linen. And guess whom God used to conquer this final root in David?

Amalek! Amalek! My ancestors! My people. . . insecure, inferior, jealous, reactionary, neurotic, aggressive, treacherous, violent. . .

Haman, please don't be bitter. Search out the meaning; use the wisdom your executive position demands. You too can be remembered as the man who altered the course of history for your people. Please, listen carefully.

As one might expect, they attacked the city occupied by David and his 600 men and their families—except that the men were gone with David on a military excursion. The Amalekites burned Ziklag, taking all the women and children captive. When David returned to gaze in horror at the smoldering city, his grief stricken men were ready to stone him.

At that moment the last spark of self-trust in David finally evaporated with the smoke. Encouraging himself in the Lord his Banner, he was at last ready for the throne that would endure forever. *The lot was now truly in God's hands.* No wonder God called him a man after His own heart, calling His own Son the Son of David, this God-man, of Whom I spoke earlier.

The same honor and dominion is available to you, Haman, if only you will turn away from your own goodness and glory and put on the fine linen robe of *God's* righteousness. On that basis alone you may build the kind of administration your people need, from the blue of heaven's grace and wisdom to the scarlet of service and sacrificial love. It's yours if you will receive it freely from the God who loves you as you are and. . .

I think you represent the god of the Jews only. Your whole approach sounds disgustingly Jewish, the more I listen to it. Let me get some rest, or I'll hang you on the gallows I prepared for Mordecai today.

Haman, you are making a fatal mistake. I have offered you a new and heavenly ancestry and you refuse to accept it. But your inner Agag and Amalek have been used to prepare the people you hate for the dominion you cannot understand.

The eleven months' warning you have given them by God's lot has reduced them to utter dependence upon the God of all gods until He is again their Banner and precious Doorway to relationship. And the one Jew you loathe most is now fully prepared for the royalty you willfully ignore. He will take your place as prime minister.

Not only that, but the complete reversal of your high-

handed plans will come about through, yes, a weak woman, and she a Jewess who has been brought into complete submission to the will and "lot" of her God [Est. 2:15, 20]. Because she rests secure in her Beloved. And He is about to show *you* the principle of the LOT, that "the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favor to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all" [Eccl. 9:11].

Get out! Now!

Moreover, Haman, concerning this *lot* you have trusted in for guidance: Your Persian word for lot, *pur*, is exactly the same as a Hebrew word meaning "break, bring to naught," and was used by King David himself in one of his Psalms. Listen to it: "The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect" [Ps. 33:10].

I said *leave at once! Immediately!*

Even now the "lot" or "fate" is turning against you, and your "enemy," who has *humbled himself* at the king's gate [Est. 4:2], Mordecai, is by a strange circumstance from God suddenly coming into unusual favor with the king [Est. 6:1-6]. Your hours are numbered, Haman. You will *certainly* be broken, and *Amalek*, not the people you have humbled at the gate of the God of hosts, will be destroyed with your ten sons. . . and you.

I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL KILL YOU!

Haman. . . Haman. . . your countenance is changing. . .
NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE. . . HORRORS! ADOLF HITLER!

"For yet a little while, and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more. But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace" [Ps. 37:10-11].

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