

Haman Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

How was Haman “living the Persian dream”?

What does the deposing of Queen Vashti indicate about Persian attitudes towards women?

What made Haman think that he was shrewdly leveraging his position and headed for success?

Is it reasonable that Xerxes might have preferred choosing a woman with no political base or family support in order to assure that she would be compliant?

In what way does the story of Esther’s elevation to royalty seem like a fairy tale?

Within 15 – 20 years of these events, the feast of Purim was started – does that make it unlikely that it was a fabricated story? Why?

Do you think that Mordechai was or was not consciously setting up a conflict with Haman? Why?

What might the founders of the Meads and Persians’ legal system have had in mind when they set up the system that a law, once enacted, could not be changed?

What do you think of the fact that Esther did not bring up the real reason for her visit right away, but instead set up a banquet?

When she could not bring herself to state her real request after the first day’s feast, could she have known what would happen that night? What does the actual sequence of events imply?

The king had insomnia and asked that something be read to him from the court records, and the passage he read happened to include the account of Mordechai’s unrewarded discovery of a plot. Wouldn’t it seem more likely that he would ask for poetry rather than “C-Span”?

Critics state that God is not mentioned in the entire book. What events indicate that the providence of God is seen throughout the entire story?

Could it be said that Haman just had an extended streak of bad luck? Why or why not?

Was his wife a positive or negative influence?

When were the times that Haman might have thought better of his plan and changed the direction of his life?