

Chapter Ten

Bow!

Esther 3:1-6¹

“Bow! Bow to *The* High and Exalted One!”

“*Get out’a the way!*”

“Bow!! *Bow-I said!!!* ‘...Reverence...’ His Majesty’s High and Exalted One!”

“*You there*, bow before Him whose ‘...seat...’ is ‘...above all princes...’!”

Thinking to himself; “What’s this? He won’t bow?! He *must* bow. *Everyone* bows to Haman!”

“Didn’t you hear me?...*I say you there*...bow, bow before ‘...Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite...’!”

Thinking again, “Why won’t this man bow?...Is he stupid?...Hasn’t he heard of Haman?... Will he now incur his wrath? If he continues like this; *Haman* will make him pay *with his life!*”

“Then the king’s servants, which were in the king’s gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king’s commandment? Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he harkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai’s matters would stand: for he had told them that HE WAS A JEW.”

Esther 3:3 and 4 [See history repeated, when another “...JEW...”

¹ Music begins playing the first minute of Brahms Symphony no. 1, Academic Festival Overture.

(John 4:9) refused to “...fall down and worship...” (Matthew 4:9) anyone but God. Though years apart, these men were in good company!]

“A JEW” (or Christian for that matter) who bows in *reverence* to anyone but God, breaks the *first* commandment. (See, Exodus 20:1 to 5) Since the word *reverence* means *veneration* or *WORSHIP*, the title of *Reverend* is reserved for God ALONE. Remember...

“...Holy and REVEREND is *HIS name*...”! Psalms 111:9b

“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in REVERENCE of all them that are about him.” Psalms 89:7

The moment someone begins to reverence a man, the worship of GOD ceases!

For example, let's say you were living during the time of Ahasuerus, and one day (quite by accident-mind you) you happened to catch Mordecai bowing down to Haman. Remember; you witnessed it with your own eyes. Now tell me the first thing that comes to your mind. Be honest! Wouldn't you say, “There's something wrong with this picture”? Of course you would! You know what the Bible says on this subject, and would take exception to *anyone* worshiping a man instead of God.

What if you liked to gossip (and, by the way, who doesn't), wouldn't you be doing your fellow “...whisperers...” (Romans 1:29) *a favour*, by *informing* them that Mordecai *the JEW* just lost his religion [in the good sense of the word-James 5:27]? Of course you would! You'd even move up a rung on the “gossip ladder;” since *YOU* were the one who caught him breaking the first commandment!

If you *haven't* already read the text, let me be the first to stop you from *any* and *all* further gossip. The truth is there's NO

gossip to tell. (*I was only speculating.*) The above incident did NOT happen! The truth is NOTHING happened!!

“...Mordecai bowed NOT, nor did him REVERENCE...”!!! Esther 3:5

My point to all this is very simple. *Mordecai's lack of obeisance to Haman demonstrated his undivided REVERENCE to Jehovah!*

Thou Shalt Not Steal

Has the following question ever crossed *your* mind (it certainly has *mine*)? *Why do we worship GOD?* You say, “Worshiping God is a command, and therefore, it’s required.” That’s true, but that’s NOT the answer I’m looking for. So, with your permission, to find the answer I’m seeking, I’ll rephrase the question. *Why does God solicit our worship?* There, that’s a better question! Now for the answer: The Almighty solicits our worship because He is the source of EVERYTHING that’s good, godly, holy, pure, perfect, righteous, and lovely. Can you imagine a fate without Him? Rest assured friend; if there was no God, you and I would “...*have been as though...*” we “...*had not been....*” (Job 10:19) In other words, without His “...*excellent greatness...*” (Psalm 150:2b), none of us would “*be*” *at all!!!* This can best be summed up by saying, He that “...*giveth...life, and breath...*” (Acts 17:25) to all, *deserves* our WORSHIP! FOR HE, AND HE ALONE, IS WORTHY TO RECEIVE IT!!!

Now let’s say, someone lacking the power to create or sustain life came along who repeatedly watched as others fell “...*down before him that sat on the throne...*” and worshipped “...*him that liveth for ever and ever...saying, Thou art WORTHY, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for THOU hast created ALL THINGS and for THY PLEASURE they ARE and WERE CREATED.*” (Revelation 4:9 to 11) And let’s say, after watching others “...*give...glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne...*”, envy set in-because he too wanted recognition. To what length do you suppose he would go, to obtain that kind of adoration and worship *for himself*? Let’s see....

“...*I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*” Isaiah 14:13 and 14

Did you catch that last statement? Lucifer’s ambition (in the bad sense of the word) was to “be LIKE the most High.” In other words, he sought godhood, *without the credentials to back it up*. That’s called STEALING!!!

“Hey Lucifer, quit trying to swipe God’s glory! ‘Thou shalt NOT steal!’”

Lucifer was *relentless* in his effort to steal what rightfully belonged to God! He proved that, when he said, “I will” *FIVE* times *in a row*! [That number, the number FIVE, matches the original number of Cherubim before Lucifer’s fall. (Ezekiel 28:14, Revelation 4:7-*one* in Ezekiel, and *four* here.) It also matches the amount of times the word “WORSHIP” is found in Revelation chapter thirteen-the most prominent chapter in The New Testament concerning the Beast or Antichrist! See, Revelation 13:4 (2 times), 8, 12, and 15] This subject will continue again soon, but first it’s time for me to introduce...

Haman, The Son of Hammedatha, *The Son of Perdition!*

Good or *evil*, every character in The Book of Esther represents a type. Just as Ahasuerus represents Jehovah, and Mordecai represents Christ; Haman *represents* the Devil.

The flesh and blood “...son of Hammedatha the Agagite...” (Esther 3:1) had something in common with “...the *prince of Tyrus*...” (Ezekiel 28:2) John called it; “...*that SPIRIT of ANTICHRIST*...” (I John 4:3) Please don’t misunderstand what I’m saying here. If, for no other reason than he was born *too soon*, Bible prophecy NOWHERE suggests that Haman is *THE* Antichrist. But he, like the prince of Tyrus and Judas Iscariot [who, if you remember, died from hanging!!! (Matthew 27:5; Esther 7:10)], all, at one point or another, were possessed with the same evil or “...unclean *spirit*...” (Matthew 12:43-Expression) the Antichrist will have, once he is revealed.

This *spirit*...

...is a spirit that desires exaltation. (Ezekiel 28:2; Isaiah 14:13 and 14)

...is a proud spirit. (Ezekiel 28:17a; Job 41:34)

...is a spirit that wants worship, *in the place of God*. (Ezekiel 28:2; Matthew 4:9; II Thessalonians 2:3 and 4)

...is a spirit that puts education *above* the knowledge of God. (Ezekiel 28:3-5; Genesis 3:5-“*know*”)

...is a spirit that hates *God and God’s people*. (The *literal Jew* in the Old Testament, the *spiritual Jew*, in the New.)

...is a spirit that hates ZION (On the *earth*, Jerusalem. I Kings 11:36; Revelation 11:2 and 20:9; In the *heavens*, “...*new Jerusalem*, coming down from God out of heaven....” Revelation 21:2. See, Galatians 4:26, Hebrews 12:22. Study, Revelation 3:12 with Isaiah 14:13.), The City of God.

Can anything be clearer? Haman has “...*that spirit of ANTICHRIST*...”

...His *SEAT* is above the *princes*. (Esther 3:1; Revelation 2:13 and 13:2!!!)

...He is proud. (Esther 6:6)

...He demands worship. (Esther 3:2 and 5)

...He insists on his own exaltation. (Esther 3:1; 5:9-13; and 6:6)

...He puts what he knows above God and the King. (Esther 6:7-13)

...He hates the Jews (Esther 3:6, 8, 9a, 10, 13), and he hates their homeland. [If Haman hadn’t been killed, he would have gone to Jerusalem “...to destroy the Jews which...” (Esther 8:5-*in context*) resided there too!]

The Third and Final Enemy

“Yep, we’re reapin’ ar sin auwright. The serpent cursed,...my wife still has pain,...and me and the boys ar working by the sweat of ar brow...*just like God said*. He tole me all this stuff’s gonna be in a book one day. Yep-and my name is gonna be in it

too! Let me tell ya...THE WORLD aint' as friendly as she usta be. When this all happened, my old *ally* (the world)...became my *enemy*. Every time I think about it, sumpin' inside me still hurts. Like watching my woman go through all that *pain*. Even though she went through all that yellin' and screamin,' ta 'multiply' like He said, my boy died *anyway*. No no...not my first son, my *second* one. We 'yaint heard hide nor hair from my first boy since he run away. I'm telling ya the truth, I wudda never ate offa that blasted thing, if I knew it woulda killed one, and run the odder one off. Grief man...grief...and all this sin around me-I don't think I can take it any more! Things sure ain't like they used ta be. Take the utter day...I was plantin' some vegetables out in the back forty, and the ground...that jinxed ground...well...it wouldn't hardly budge or move for me. I could swear...it took me a week just to clear it out. Yep, that's how I got that gash on my leg. I remember it like it wers yesterday. Me and Seth wer backin' up to clear me some extra land,...and, well...it cut THE FLESH right here."

If we could avail ourselves of all the history books written since Genesis three, we'd still only have a meager glimpse of all the chaos mankind has been through, since the beginning of time-all, may I add, at the hand of our enemies! Genesis 3:14 to 19 was man's worst day in history (and we've been going *downhill* ever since). We can attribute that day (the day mankind and this planet were simultaneously cursed by God) as the day the world and the flesh *formally* became our enemy. This brings up an important question. What about Satan? At what point *in history* did *he* become our *third* enemy? Here's the answer: *No one knows*. The Bible doesn't say! If I were to guess, though, I would say that Satan had Adam "in his sights" right from the beginning.² The moment he was created; Adam was *automatically* enlisted as Satan's enemy. What better way for Satan to get back at The Creator then to attack the very one who was created to replace him. God's (and now Adam's) Enemy couldn't wait to see *the new kid on the block* fail, and did everything in his power to make sure he *would*!

Of the *three* enemies we battle, Satan is the most aggressive. *Since the fall of man, He has used the other two to advance his kingdom*. Paul said, "For we wrestle not against flesh..." (*The flesh* is powerful, but it's no match for Satan!) "...and blood, but *against* principalities, *against* powers, *against* the rulers of darkness OF THIS WORLD,..." (See it? Satan is using *this world* against us!) "...*against* spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12)

Satan is a different kind of enemy than the first two, because he wars in the realm of the *spirit*. Though he's presently stripped of God's authority, he still wields a mighty sword! Remember, he, like Haman, was to appropriate the position of second ruler in The Kingdom, which, by the way, brings up another question. Was Jehovah *wrong* for promoting and advancing Lucifer? No, not any more than King Ahasuerus-who did the same with Haman! It seems like you have another question. Don't be shy; ask it! "Isn't it true that God *made a mistake*, by *creating* Lucifer; since in the end, he fell and became an enemy anyway?" (See, it wasn't that bad. Your question *didn't* offend God. He answers those *types* of questions *all the time*! He even has some like those of His own.

² Remember; Adam was created as "...*the son of God*..." (Luke 3:38) to replace Satan as both King and Federal Head of God's *newly* established Kingdom. God commanded him to "...be fruitful, and multiply..." (Genesis 1:28), in order to replace the *fallen* "...sons of God..." (Job 38:7) who "...left their own habitation..." (Jude 6a) to follow Lucifer.

See, Job chapters 38 to 41!!!) Here's your answer: First of all God didn't create him AS Lucifer. He was created *as* "...the anointed cherub that covereth..." [Here's a thought: I wonder how wonderful Haman seemed to Ahasuerus, before his *true* nature was revealed?] Remember, Lucifer was perfect in his ways "...till iniquity was found in..." him. (Ezekiel 28:14-15) That's the day God cast him down "...to the ground..." (Isaiah 14:12. Jesus saw it too!-Luke 10:18) Mark it down friend, BEFORE IT EVER HAPPENED, God, in His foresight and infinite wisdom, always knew the fifth Cherub would fall!!! Secondly (like I pointed out earlier), this was all in God's plan. The only way man's love (to God) could be proven; was to give him a *choice*.

Even though the King *himself* "...advanced..." Haman, and "...commanded...all the...servants...in the king's gate..." to bow and give him reverence; it was *HAMAN* who sought to lay hands on Mordecai, and "...destroy all the Jews...throughout the whole kingdom..." Do you know what that tells us? King Ahasuerus did *nothing wrong*, by promoting Haman. Let's face it, no one (but God) knows how anyone will handle authority; at least until *after* it's been granted-proving once again, that hindsight *is* truly twenty-twenty!

Do you remember me saying; King Nebuchadnezzar had every right to bow before Daniel, *in lieu* of the Spirit of God inside him? (Daniel 2:46-47) Then, *IN LIEU OF THE KING'S ADVANCEMENT AND APPOINTMENT*, wouldn't it be just as *permissible* to bow before Haman (or Lucifer-*before he fell*) for similar reasons? Is that you I hear whispering again? Speak up; so we can all hear you! "Shades of Rome! Isn't that what the Catholic church says, when bowing to the Pope and 'the saints'?" Good question! *...And, herein lies the problem!* ...Where is the line drawn between *respect* and *reverence*? The answer is very simple: To *whom* is the homage being paid, and by *whom* is it being received? For example: The Pope or God? The Preacher, or The Almighty? Daniel, or The Spirit *inside* him? If it's a sin *to give* reverence to anyone but God, it's also a sin *to receive* it. The reverence that Haman received WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE FOR *HIM*, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR HIS MAJESTY *THE KING*! If you think about it, Haman was stealing Ahasuerus' reverence *all along*. (Don't forget King Ahasuerus is a type of Jehovah.) If Ahasuerus realized what was going on behind his back, he would have ended Haman's *tenure* (*You want an eye-opener? Look that word up in the dictionary!*³) immediately.

The Red Dragon Caught Red-handed

These days, the latest way to lose your wallet is called theft by deception. With literally tons of information about us stored on the Internet, anyone savvy enough, can easily access it, without a lot of difficulty. Frankly, I'm surprised this kind of theft doesn't go on more often.

Think about it like this, if someone ASSUMES YOUR IDENTITY, *they have all they need to steal from you!* Hit a few buttons; punch in some codes, and voila! someone is *transformed* into your likeness. That's exactly how "the *god* of this world" steals what rightfully belongs to *The God* who created it.

³ Definition #2. "The *RIGHT* to hold or possess something." [In *this* case, receiving reverence from someone.] Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary.

“And no marvel; for SATAN *himself* is TRANSFORMED into an angel of light...” II
Corinthians 11:14

Satan was the original *transformer*,⁴ so don't be surprised when he *transforms* his evil nature into something THAT LOOKS GODLY! This “morning star” (Job 38:7-Isaiah 14:12 - NOT “...BRIGHT and morning star...” Revelation 22:16-They're NOT the same, one is BRIGHT, and the other is a FAKER!) knows he's a counterfeit, and works very hard to cover it up! Little by little, this “...deceiver...” (II John 7, Revelation 12:9) siphons off our love for God, by misdirecting it to himself! The Book of Numbers gives us three pictures of him, all of which represent the *satanic trinity*.

“And it came to pass on the morrow, that BALAK took BALAAM, and brought him up into the high places of BAAL, that thence he might see the utmost part of the people.”
Numbers 22:41

“And I saw *three* unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of THE DRAGON, and out of the mouth of THE BEAST, and out of the mouth of THE FALSE PROPHET.”
Revelation 16:13

BAAL represents the false king, “THE RED DRAGON.” (Revelation chapter twelve) He is the antitype of the *first* member of the Trinity-God, The Father, *The King*.

BALAK represents “the Son of Perdition;” “THE BEAST,” also known as the “Antichrist.” These terms are all antitypes of the *second* member of the Trinity, Jesus-The Son of God. (Notice: King Balak wanted Balaam to CURSE the children of Israel, and keep them from their intended purpose of re-entering the Promised Land.) This is where HAMAN enters. He represents the Devil incarnate. *He, and all that represent him, “...have one mind...” Their purpose is to “...make war with the LAMB [-remember MORDECAI is a type of CHRIST- ‘the Lamb of God’!]...”* (Revelation 17:13 and 14), AND destroy all God's people. [If the Devil can't get at God, he'll do the next best thing (what's best for him is worst for us), he'll get at God's people.] While Judas, the Devil incarnate, attacked Jesus, the King of the JEWS; during the Tribulation, the Beast or Antichrist “...shall wear out the saints of the most High...” (Daniel 7:25), who, like HAMAN of old, sought to “...destroy...” all “...the JEWS which are in the king's...” kingdom. (Esther 8:5)

BALAAM (Joshua 13:22) represents “THE FALSE PROPHET,” or “Image of the Beast.” Balaam is the antitype of the *third* member of the Trinity, The Holy Spirit. (See, Revelation 13:14-15; 19:20)

In conclusion, the prize for the world's greatest imitator goes to SATAN! When it comes to *transforming* himself into an image that RESEMBLES God; he will stop at nothing!!

Across the centuries, Haman can still be heard licking his chops at the sound of knees bending in his direction, from around the world. But, even “...his seat above the princes...” meant “...nothing...” to him, as long as “...Mordecai the Jew...” was

⁴ Coincidentally, for the last 20 years, “*The Transformers*” is the name of one of the most often asked for toys on the market. This toy changes (from) a man *into a beast* or *into a machine*. It's also interesting to note, a transformer is a device that changes various *electrical* currents up or down. Update-July 2007. *Transformers*, the movie, just arrived in theaters nationwide!!!

“...sitting...” (*and not bowing*) “...at the king’s gate...”! (Esther 5:13) In an act of courage and obedience to God, “**...Mordecai bowed NOT, nor did him reverence.**” (Esther 3:2b)