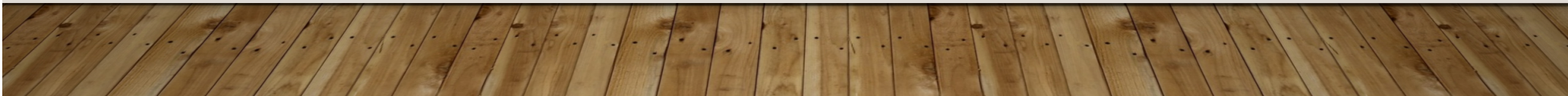


A NEW LOOK AT ESTHER



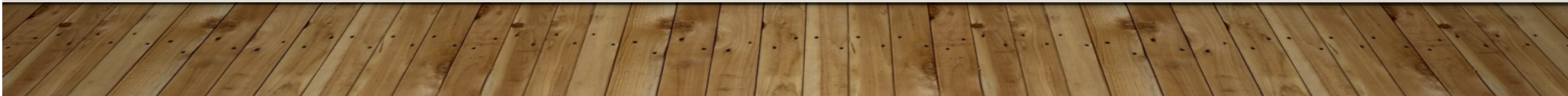
Esther 2:19 – 3:15

Sitting in the Gate



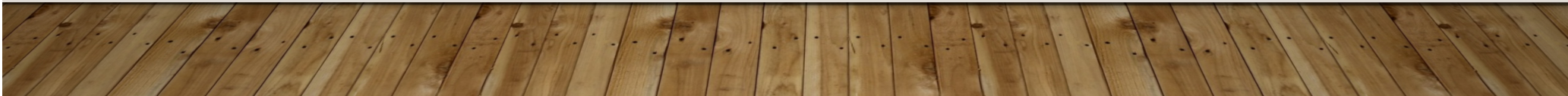
ESTHER 2:19-20

- 19) Now when the virgins were gathered together the **second time**, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate.
- 20) Esther had not made known her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him.



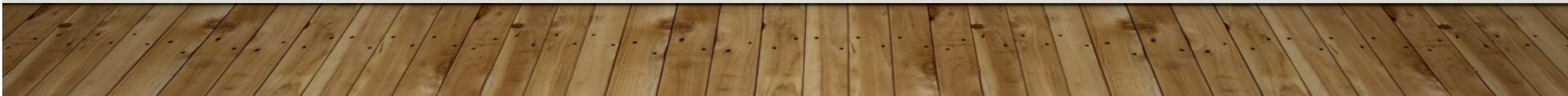
ESTHER 4:11

- 11) “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law - to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, **I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days.**”



ESTHER 2:21-23

- 21) In those days, as **Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate**, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.
- 22) And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai.
- 23) When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. And it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

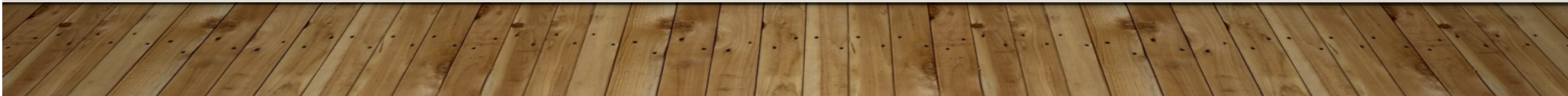


ESTHER 3:1

- I) After these things King Ahasuerus promoted **Haman** the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and **advanced him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him.**

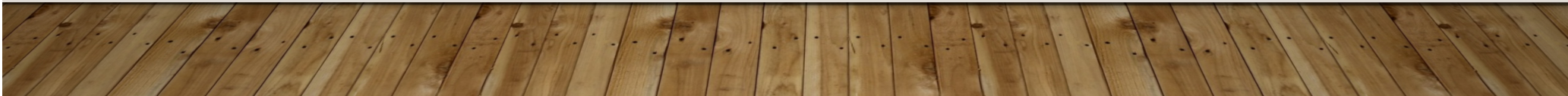
ESTHER 3:2

- 2) And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But **Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage.**



ESTHER 3:8-9

- 8) Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and **they do not keep the king’s laws**, so that it is not to the king’s profit to tolerate them.
- 9) If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and **I will pay 10,000 talents of silver** into the hands of those who have charge of the king’s business, that they may put it **into the king’s treasuries.**”



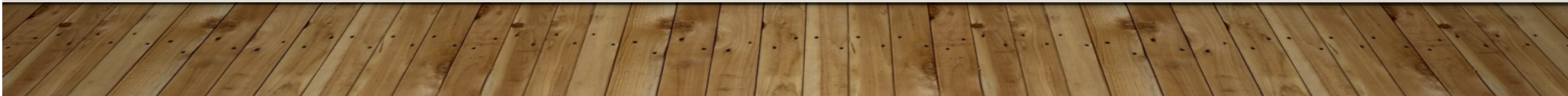
JEREMIAH 29:7

- 7) But **seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile**, and **pray to the Lord on its behalf**, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

I) The Bible indicates the Jews have **consistently rebelled**

ACTS 7:51-53

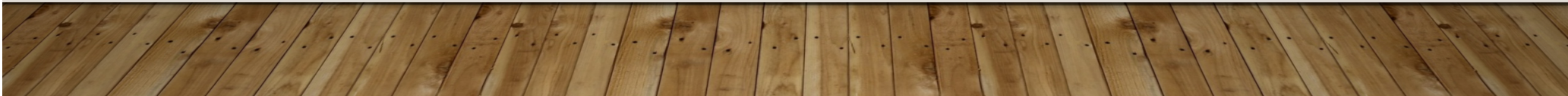
- 51) “**You stiff-necked people**, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.
- 52) Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,
- 53) you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”



- 1) The Bible indicates the Jews have **consistently rebelled**
- 2) **Artaxerxes** agreed

EZRA 4:18-20

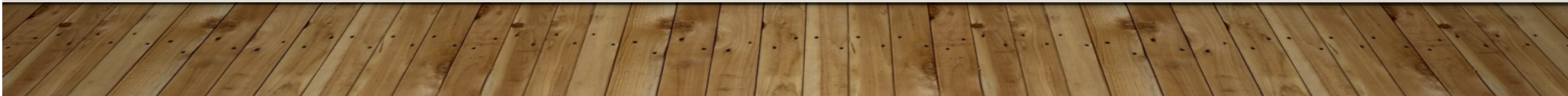
- 18) the letter that you sent to us has been plainly read before me.
- 19) And I made a decree, and search has been made, and it has been found that this city from of old has risen against kings, and that **rebellion and sedition** have been made in it.
- 20) And mighty kings have been over Jerusalem, who ruled over the whole province Beyond the River, to whom tribute, custom, and toll were paid.



- 1) The Bible indicates the Jews have **consistently rebelled**
- 2) **Artaxerxes** agreed
- 3) Bowing down to Haman **wasn't act of worship** or an acknowledgement of deity
- 4) **Other Godly Jews** showed respect to their superiors

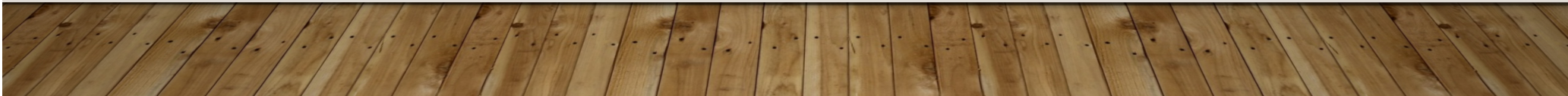
1ST SAMUEL 24:8

- 8) Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, “My lord the king!” And when Saul looked behind him, David **bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage.**



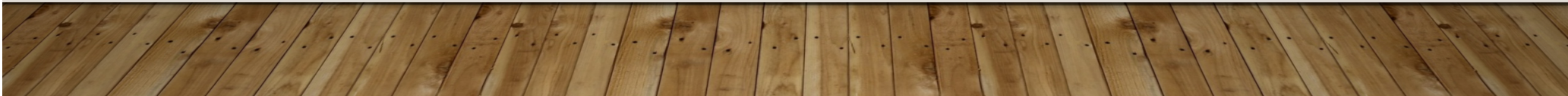
GENESIS 41:14

- 14)** Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had **shaved himself and changed his clothes**, he came in before Pharaoh.



JEREMIAH 27:6-15

- 6) Now **I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar**, the king of Babylon, my servant...
- 7) All the nations shall **serve him**...
- 9) So **do not listen** to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your fortune-tellers, or your sorcerers, who are saying to you, '**You shall not serve** the king of Babylon.'



- 1) The Bible indicates the Jews have **consistently rebelled**
- 2) **Artaxerxes** agreed
- 3) Bowing down to Haman **wasn't act of worship** or an acknowledgement of deity
- 4) **Other Godly Jews** showed respect to their superiors
- 5) Mordecai is being **hypocritical**

ESTHER 3:11

- 11) And the king said to Haman, “The money is given to you, the people also, to **do with them as it seems good to you.**”

A SERIES OF FAILURES

- The **KING** failed to heed the wise counsel of his princes, instead, he acts on the sole counsel of Haman
- The **KING** gives Haman complete authority so he can pass laws that the King has never even read
- The **KING** failed to honor a man whose actions saved his life and his Kingdom

A SERIES OF FAILURES

- **ESTHER** showing submission to her Step-Father, even above her husband and her King, puts her in a bad light
- **ESTHER** has become Queen of Persia on false pretenses

A SERIES OF FAILURES

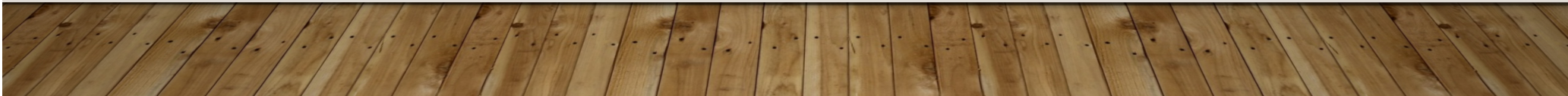
- **HAMAN** is a wicked man and not only hates Mordecai, but all Jews
- **HAMAN** deceives the King and manipulates him
- **HAMAN** seeks the annihilation of an entire race!

MORDECAI

- MORDECAI enters Esther in the contest to be Queen
- MORDECAI instructs Esther to keep her identity a secret
- MORDECAI exercises authority over Esther rather than her husband
- MORDECAI brings the entire Jewish race into grave danger because of his stubborn pride

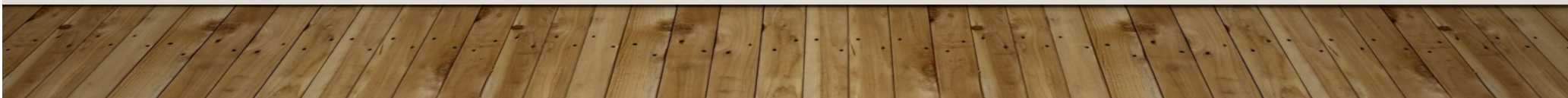
OUR LESSON

- Beware of being like **Mordecai**, and practicing sin in the name of Christianity
- Many of us who live in the **Name of Christ** have angered others because we were not acting like Christians
- When we defend our actions as being Christian, the world sees our hypocrisy **AND** then concludes that all Christians are like us
- Not only do we bring reproach on ourselves, but on the **Name of Christ**



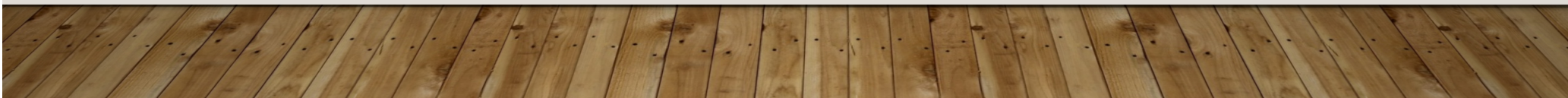
1ST PETER 2:11-17

- 11) Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.
- 12) **Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable**, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may **see your good deeds** and glorify God on the day of visitation.
- 13) Be **subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution**, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,



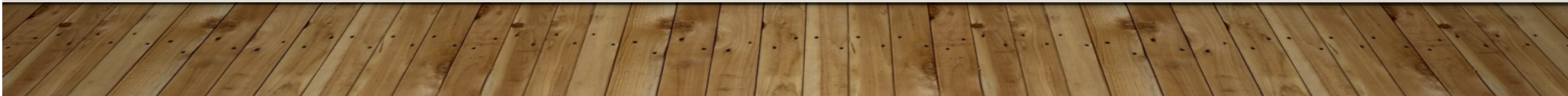
1ST PETER 2:11-17

- 14) or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.
- 15) For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.
- 16) Live as people who are free, **not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil**, but living as servants of God.
- 17) **Honor everyone**. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. **Honor the emperor**.



DON'T LABEL OUR SINS ARE RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Don't call being pushy,
“Zealous”
- Don't call pursuing selfish activities,
“Following God's Will”
- Don't call giving someone a piece of your mind,
“Admonition”
- Don't call getting even with someone,
“Requesting the Ecclesia's Help”
- Don't call being domineering,
“Leadership”
- Don't call spineless inaction,
“Submission”



DON'T LABEL OUR SINS ARE RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Don't call being nosy,
“Counseling”
- Don't call telling others how to live their life,
“Exhorting”
- Don't call criticizing someone else's beliefs,
“Preaching”
- Don't let our own **Pride** get in the way of admitting that we are not **Perfect**

