

**HAMAN'S PLOT AGAINST JEWS**

International Sunday School Lesson for October 8, 1900—Text, Esther 3:1-11—Memory Verses, 5, 6.

[Specially Arranged from Peloubet's Notes.]  
GOLDEN TEXT.—If God be for us, who can be against us?—Rom. 8:31.

READ Chapters 1-4.  
TIME.—The time of the story was somewhere about the middle of Xerxes' reign, 485-465, 62 years after the first return, 42 after the completion of the temple, and 16 before Ezra went up to Jerusalem. 1. Xerxes' Third Year.—The great feast (1:3). B. C. 485. 2. His Seventh Year.—Esther made queen (2:16). B. C. 479. 3. His Thirtieth Year.—Haman's plot and Esther's heroism, B. C. 473.

PLACE.—Shushan (Susa), the winter capital of the Persian empire, about 200 miles south of east from Babylon, and 125 miles north of the Persian gulf. The site of the ancient Susa has been explored, and remains of the great palace have been discovered.

EXPLANATORY.  
The Book of Esther.—The author is unknown, but must have been some one "living in the heart of Persia, a man who was intimately acquainted with the scenery he describes."—Prof. Adeney. The date of writing is also unknown. Prof. Sayce places it at B. C. 425. He says that the minuteness of detail shows that the author lived before the overthrow of the Persian power, B. C. 331. Some place the date still later. Historical Accuracy.

I. The Great Feast of Shushan, B. C. 483.—Esther 1:1-9. According to Herodotus, Xerxes held an assembly to arrange for the Grecian war in the third year of his reign, and it is probably this feast which is described in the first chapter of the book of Esther, as given to the nobles of the realm, assembled at Shushan from all parts of the empire. It lasted 180 days, or six months. At this long-continued fete were gathered the chief officers and nobles from the whole empire. Everything was done to impress upon them the greatness and power of the king, and the unlimited resources at his command.

II. Queen Vashti Deposed.—Esther 1:10-22. Vashti refuses the indelicate summons of her drunken husband. It is suggested by Prof. Adeney that Vashti herself may have been under the influence of the wine drunk at her own feast, and so rendered reckless, and inspired with a factitious courage. But while I do not see with Dr. Gladden that "Vashti is the character which most deserves our sympathy," yet I do agree with Dr. Taylor when he says: "For my part, I consider her conduct worthy of all praise; and hold that she was entirely right in what she did."

III. Queen Esther.—Chap. 2. An interval of four years occurs before a new queen is found in place of Vashti. It was during this interval that his great invasion of Greece took place. After the return of Xerxes from his great defeat Esther was chosen queen.

IV. Haman's Plot Against the Jews.—Vs. 1-11. Four or five years later (3:7). V. 1. "Haman:" Nothing further is known of him. "The Agagites:" "Probably a term of reproach" (Scribner's Bib. Dic.) or a local name of his birthplace.

V. 2. "Bowed:" Prostrated himself, "for such was the ordinary eastern practice. "Mordecai:" A Jew, and an elder cousin of Esther (2:7), whom he had adopted as his daughter (2:15). "Bowed not:" Because in so doing he would have been untrue to his God and his religion.

V. 3. "The king's gate:" An open space before the gate of his palace.

V. 4. "Whether Mordecai's matters" (or, rather, "words") "would stand," i. e., whether his excuse would be allowed. "He had told them that he was a Jew." So that they would understand why he could not worship Haman.

V. 6. "He thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone:" "If Haman had simply said to Ahasuerus: 'There is one of your menials, who persistently disobeys a royal edict, and at the same time insults me,' Ahasuerus would, as a matter of course, have told him to put the menial to death. But the revengeful temper of the man was such that this seemed to him insufficient. "Sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus. Massacres on a large scale.

V. 7. "In the first month" of the Jewish religious year. "Nisan:" Corresponding to our March-April, the middle of which is our Easter. "They cast Pur:" The word from which Purim, the name of the feast commemorating this deliverance, was derived. "Cast . . . the lot . . . from month to month" to find the favorable day for asking his favor of Xerxes, just as the augurs of the Romans by sacrifices, or the flight of birds sought for a day of good omen for great undertakings.

V. 8. "A certain people scattered abroad:" Who, by their ceremonies and by their religion, were kept from intermingling with the other peoples, and being absorbed by them, as has been the remarkable fact ever since.

V. 9. "Let it be written that they may be destroyed:" See under v. 6. "Ten thousand talents of silver:" Various estimates at \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

V. 10. "King took his ring:" His signet, either a ring or a cylinder. "Gave it unto Haman:" So that he could sign in the king's name and with the king's authority any decree he wished to issue.

V. 11. "The silver is given to thee:" Xerxes refused the offered money, as he did the 4,000,000 gold darics of Pythius, referred to above. It may refer to the silver he might take from the Jews.

Figs and Thistles.  
Self-conquest is the truest royalty. You cannot reprove, unless you love. Patience is good, but it will not start a fire without kindling.

No man who is an enemy to God is a friend of society.

God shuts us in a prison house of pain, and we do not understand that it is His elevator.—Sam's Horn.

Even the devil was convinced when he saw that Job served God for love and not for a living.

**COLONEL BARNETT AND HIS BRAVE MEN**

Were With Dewey in Luzon, Will Meet Him in New York.

**PHILADELPHIA TO HONOR THEM.**

The "Fighting Tenth" Will Be the Only Troops From Manila in the Great Demonstration Over the Glorious Hero of Manila.

(Special Correspondence.)

Philadelphia, Sept. 26.—Elaborate preparations are being made for the entertainment of the Tenth Pennsylvania regiment, that participated with Dewey in the campaign in Luzon, while they are here en route to the demonstration in New York in honor of the admiral. The "Fighting Tenth," who were received with such a glorious outburst of popular feeling in Pittsburgh, are going to have a similar reception in the Quaker City, the home of American patriotism. They will find that Philadelphia cannot be excelled in paying a tribute of regard to the brave sons of Pennsylvania who went to the far off Philippines to defend the flag and give their lives if necessary for the dignity and honor of their country. No other state east of the Alleghenies can claim the credit of having a regiment in Luzon in the recent struggles with the Spanish and the Filipinos. The "Fighting Tenth" returned home with a record excelled by no other command for discipline and bravery in action. They were 71 days on the firing line, and the dead they left in Luzon and the tattered battle flag that they brought home bear testimony to the valor and patriotism of the regiment.

Although Lieutenant Colonel James E. Barnett, who is in command of the regiment, has been unable to take any part in the canvass for his election as the Republican nominee for state treasurer, on account of his health having been broken down from his experience in the Philippines, it is believed that he will be strong enough to make the trip to New York.

Philadelphia will maintain her reputation for hospitality when the boys of the "Fighting Tenth" reach here this week. The Third regiment, every man of whom, under Colonel Robert Ralston, volunteered when the call came from the president, in the Spanish-American war, will be proud to have the members of the Tenth as guests. They will be at the station to meet them on their arrival, and will escort them to their regimental armory and entertain them at supper. After that there will be a series of "smokers" at convenient halls, each company looking after a company of the visitors for that occasion. Theatrical talent have been engaged for these events and they promise things of marvelous interest to the visitors from the west.

The following morning the visitors will be escorted in a short street parade to the grounds of the National Export exposition. Here they will be the guests of the directors of the exposition and will be royally received, as will also the members of the Third regiment. They will be accorded all the courtesies of the big show, and will be entertained at luncheon. The visit to the exposition will be made the occasion for the presentation of the bronze cannon, which was brought from the Philippines by the regiment. Mayor Ashbridge will make an address in acceptance of this trophy in response to the presentation speech by Lieutenant Colonel Barnett. Governor Stone, who is to go to New York to lead the Pennsylvania troops in the Dewey parade, is also expected to be here to receive the Tenth regiment, and may make a short address.

**THE CITY TO DECORATE.**

The citizens of Philadelphia want to pay quite as much attention to the Tenth regiment as was shown them in the western section of the state. While they are not bound by as close family and other personal ties, they feel that they represent in the highest degree the patriotism and the fighting spirit of the old Keystone commonwealth, as though they were all from the Quaker City. Mayor Ashbridge will issue an address to the people of the city to appropriately decorate their dwellings and places of business, and to otherwise observe the occasion of the visit of the only command east of the Alleghenies that went to the Philippines, in a manner to maintain the reputation of the municipality for hospitality and devotion to the welfare of the country.

There can be no doubt of the interest taken by the people in this event. In anticipation of the coming of the regiment the municipal authorities have directed that part of the decorations of the "Avenue of Fame," which was erected for the convention of the Grand Army of the Republic, shall be maintained on Broad street. The Union League building has been beautifully decorated for the evening and the exterior has been decked with hundreds of electric lights. These globes form an eagle and a shield in the national colors, and above them is the word "Welcome," also fashioned in electric bulbs.

Cards will be issued to the officers of the regiment to the Union League, the Art club, the Mercantile and other club houses. The regiment will be escorted to the station for New York by the Third, First and Second regiments, of this city.

There is every reason to believe that the visit of the Tenth to Philadelphia will be made memorable in the history of the regiment.

**THE PLACE OF HONOR.**

It is proposed to give the boys of the Tenth the right of the line of the Pennsylvania division of the parade in New York. It can be assumed that this regard, being the only command that was with Dewey in the Philippines, will receive much attention along the line of march in Manhattan.

After the parade there will be an interesting reunion of the land and sea fighters, when the Pennsylvania soldiers meet the men of the Olympia. The officers, sailors and marines of Admiral Dewey's flagship have many

net, upon receipt of General Roe's invitation, immediately made a canvass of the regiment, and the reports of the captains of the several companies were unanimous in the desire to contribute to the celebration in honor of Dewey. Governor Stone promptly informed Lieutenant Colonel Barnett that he would see that a supply of arms were loaned the men by the state in order that they might be properly equipped for the parade.

**CHAT WITH GOVERNOR STONE.**

"Pennsylvanians are justly proud of the Tenth regiment," said the governor, "and we are delighted to have them go to New York to represent the Keystone State in this demonstration. While Admiral Dewey was steaming across the seas in the Olympia our boys of the Tenth were also speeding homeward, coming by the San Francisco route, and nothing could be more fitting than that these gallant representatives of the army in the Philippines should be on hand to greet the naval heroes when they first set foot upon their native land once more."

**A PHILADELPHIA WELCOME.**

Great preparations, it is understood, are under way in Philadelphia to give Barnett and his boys a royal welcome on their way to New York. Colonel Ralston's Third regiment have invited them to be their guests while in the Quaker City, and the officers of the National Export Exposition propose to entertain them and extend them the courtesies of the big show. It is not unlikely that the presentation of the bronze Spanish cannon brought by the Tenth from Luzon to the city of Philadelphia will be made by Lieutenant Colonel Barnett during this visit of the regiment. Mayor Ashbridge will present the freedom of the city to the boys of the Tenth in a characteristic and patriotic address.

**Appreciation.**

Mauve—This is not my best work. I only painted it to keep the wolf from the door.

His Friend—Hang it out. It will be a success.—Harper's Bazar.

**Valuable Suggestion.**

First Actor—What plan shall I adopt to fill the house at my benefit?

Second Actor—Why not invite your creditors?—Tit-Bits.

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She—Yes.  
He—And this is all?  
She—I might throw in a few moth balls.—Chicago Record.

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