

Read Esther 3:12-15

12 So, on April 17 the king's secretaries were summoned, and a decree/law was written exactly as Haman dictated. It was sent to the king's highest officers, the governors and the nobles of each province in their own scripts and languages. The law was written in the name of King Xerxes and sealed with the King's signet ring.

13 Letters were sent by messengers into all the provinces of the empire, giving the order that all Jews— young and old, including women and children—must be killed, slaughtered, and destroyed on a single day. This was scheduled to happen on March 7 of the next year. The property of the Jews would be given to those who killed them.

14 A copy of this command was to be issued as law in every province and proclaimed to all peoples, so that they would be ready to do their duty on the appointed day and kill the Jews.

15 At the King's command, the law went out by swift messengers, and it was also proclaimed in the fortress of Susa. Then the King and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa fell into confusion.

Who were summoned on April 17 (v. 12)? The king's secretaries.

What did the secretaries do? They wrote the new law just as Haman told them to.

Who was the new law sent to? All the important ruling officials in the kingdom.

Whose name was on the new law? King Xerxes name.

How was it signed? Haman signed it by using the signet ring of the King.

What did they do next (v. 13)? They sent copies of the letter to every country in the kingdom.

What was the message they carried? All the Jews, even women and little children, must be killed.

When was it going to happen? On March 7 of the following year. A little less than a year away.

What would happen to the property of the Jews? Whoever killed the Jews got to keep their property.

Who was told about this new law (v. 14)? All the people in the kingdom.

What were the people supposed to do on March 7? Kill all the Jews.

What did the King and Haman do after the letter was sent out (v. 15)? They relaxed and celebrated by drinking together.

How do you think Haman felt at this point? He was very happy. He hated the Jews and would love to see them killed.

Why do you think the city was confused? The people had never heard of anything so cruel coming from the King before and they were probably wondering why the King hated the Jews so much.