

twenty millions of dollars. It was an appeal to the king's avarice. Perhaps he expected to get the money from the spoils of the Jews.

10, 11. Took his ring. In it was set the king's seal, which would give royal sanction

to the decree. **The silver is given thee;** either the silver of verse 9, or the expected spoils of the Jews. **The people also;** for murder and pillage. The whole Jewish people were to be as sheep in the butcher's hands.

ASK YOURSELF

When did events recorded in Esther occur? Who are the chief characters in the book? What the object? How often is the word "God" mentioned in the book of Esther?

Juniors

Seniors

1, 2. Who was king of Persia? Who was his first queen? (Chap. 1.) Why deposed? Who succeeded her? Who was Haman? What kind of ruler? Who refused to reverence him? Who was Mordecai? What office held by him? (Ch. 2: 19; 3: 4.)

3, 4. What question asked? By whom? To whom was the report given? What had Mordecai told?

5-7. Why was Haman angry? Who had refused before (Dan. 3)? What plot arranged by Haman? For what reason? What other instances of lots being used? (1 Sam. 14: 42; Matt. 27: 35; Acts 1: 26.)

8. To whom did Haman apply? What advice did he give the king?

9. What suggested? What promise given? Where was he going to get the money?

10, 11. What was given Haman? By whom? What power did the ring carry?

1-3. What was Esther's early history? To what people did Haman belong? How regarded by the Jews? When are rulers to be disobeyed? Why? What plot had Mordecai revealed? (Chap. 2: 21, 22.) Why would Mordecai not give homage to Haman? To whom should worship be rendered? (Ex. 20: 3; Matt. 4: 10.)

3-5. What spirit prompted Haman? By what is pride followed? (Prov. 16: 18; 18: 12.) By what humility? (Prov. 22: 42.)

6-8. What time decided on? How? Who disposes all things? Prov. 16: 33.

9-11. With what is revenge inconsistent? (Luke 9: 55.) From what does it proceed? (Ezek. 25: 15.) Who is the greatest example of forbearance? (1 Pet. 2: 23.)

PRACTICAL

1. When bad men are in authority it bodes ill for the good.

2. Not power, but character should command respect.

3. Nothing in heaven or in earth should we worship but God alone.

4. Beware of anyone who tries to coax you

to do what you believe to be wrong.

5. Wounded pride and vanity are always cruel.

6. Malice stops at nothing. No cost is too great for revenge.

7. When rulers become the tools of designing men, mischief is sure to follow.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How had Mordecai come to be one of the king's servants?

2. Show that Mordecai was right in not bowing to Haman?

3. Describe the plan that Haman took to revenge himself?