

Esther

Week 3

The Plots Thicken



Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, September 28, 2025



**God preserves His people through
providential acts in ordinary life.**



I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does
my help come? The **Lord will keep** your going
out and your coming in from this time forth
and forevermore.

Psalm 121:1, 8 NASB



Esther 3 - The Plots Thicken

1. Mordecai Saves the King - No Reward

Now when the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting at **the king's gate**. 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.

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.** 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.

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 2:19-23 ESV



Sitting at the King's gate



**Two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded
the threshold**



**...the men were both hanged on the
gallows.**

2. Haman Vs Mordecai - Tensions Rise

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. 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.

Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?" And when they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, **in order to see whether Mordecai's words would stand**, for he had told them that he was a Jew.

And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, **Haman was filled with fury**. But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to **destroy all the Jews**, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

Esther 3:1-6 ESV



**In order to see whether Mordecai's words
would stand, for he had told them that he was
a Jew.**

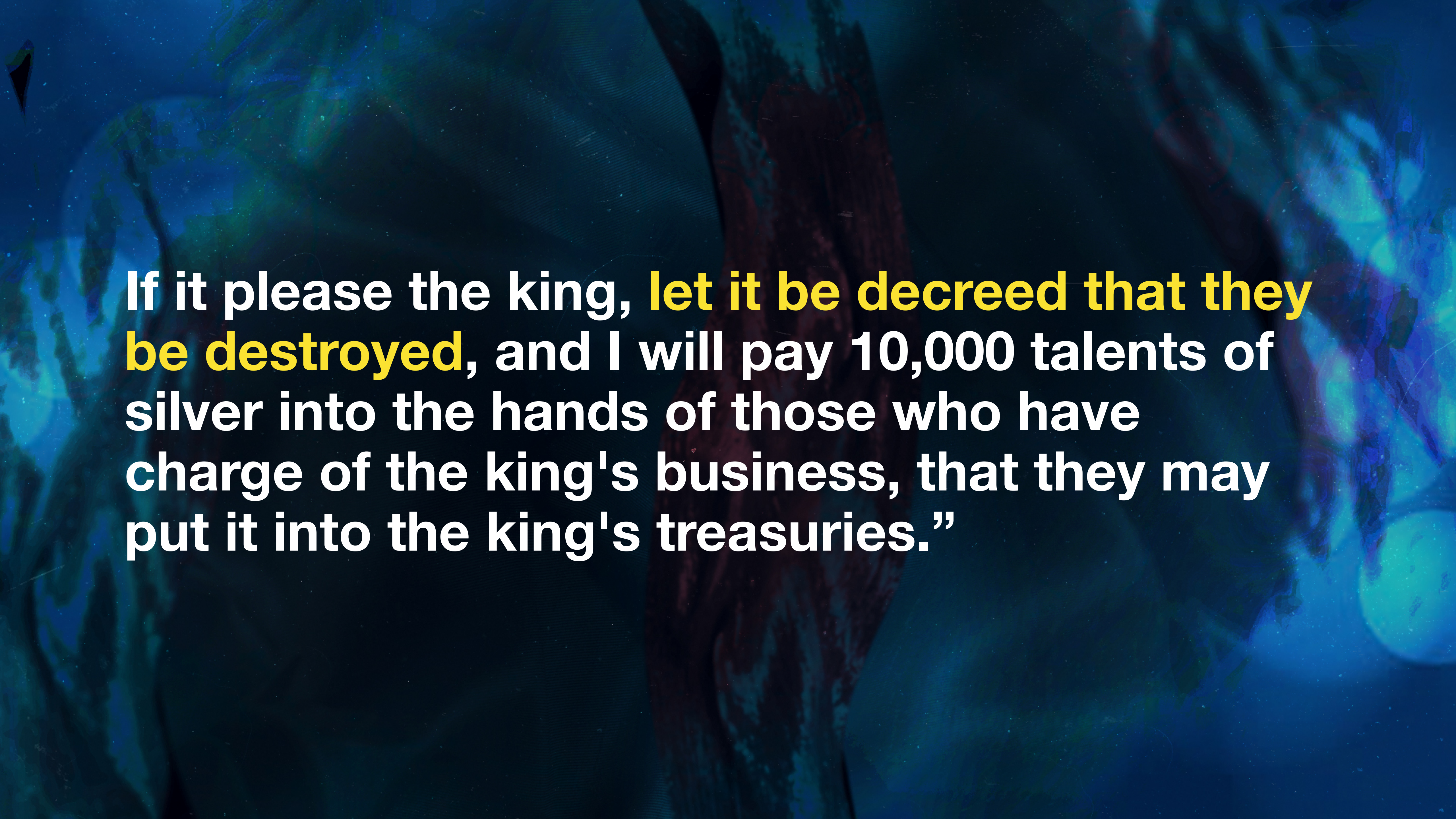


fury – intense anger – also venom, the
heat it causes and death

3. Planning for Annihilation

In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, **they cast Pur** (that is, they cast lots) before Haman day after day; and they cast it month after month till the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

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.



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.”

So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, **the enemy of the Jews**. 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.”

Esther 3:7-11 ESV



Laws are different



Do not keep...



Don't tolerate them



Do with them as you see fit



Signet ring

4. Genocide Implemented

Then the king's scribes were summoned on **the thirteenth day of the first month**, and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded, was written to the king's satraps and to the governors over all the provinces and to the officials of all the peoples, to every province in its own script and every people in its own language.

It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and **sealed with the king's signet ring**. Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province by proclamation to all the peoples to be ready for that day. The couriers went out hurriedly by order of the king, and the decree was issued in Susa the citadel. And **the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was thrown into confusion.**

Esther 3:12-15 ESV

Destroy, Kill, and Annihilate

The threefold expression is a stylistic feature of legal documents and reflects the age-old predilection of officialdom for legalistic terminology that has survived through the ages.

JG Baldwin

1. Trust God in Your Darkest Hour

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1 ESV

2. Do the Right Thing - No Matter What

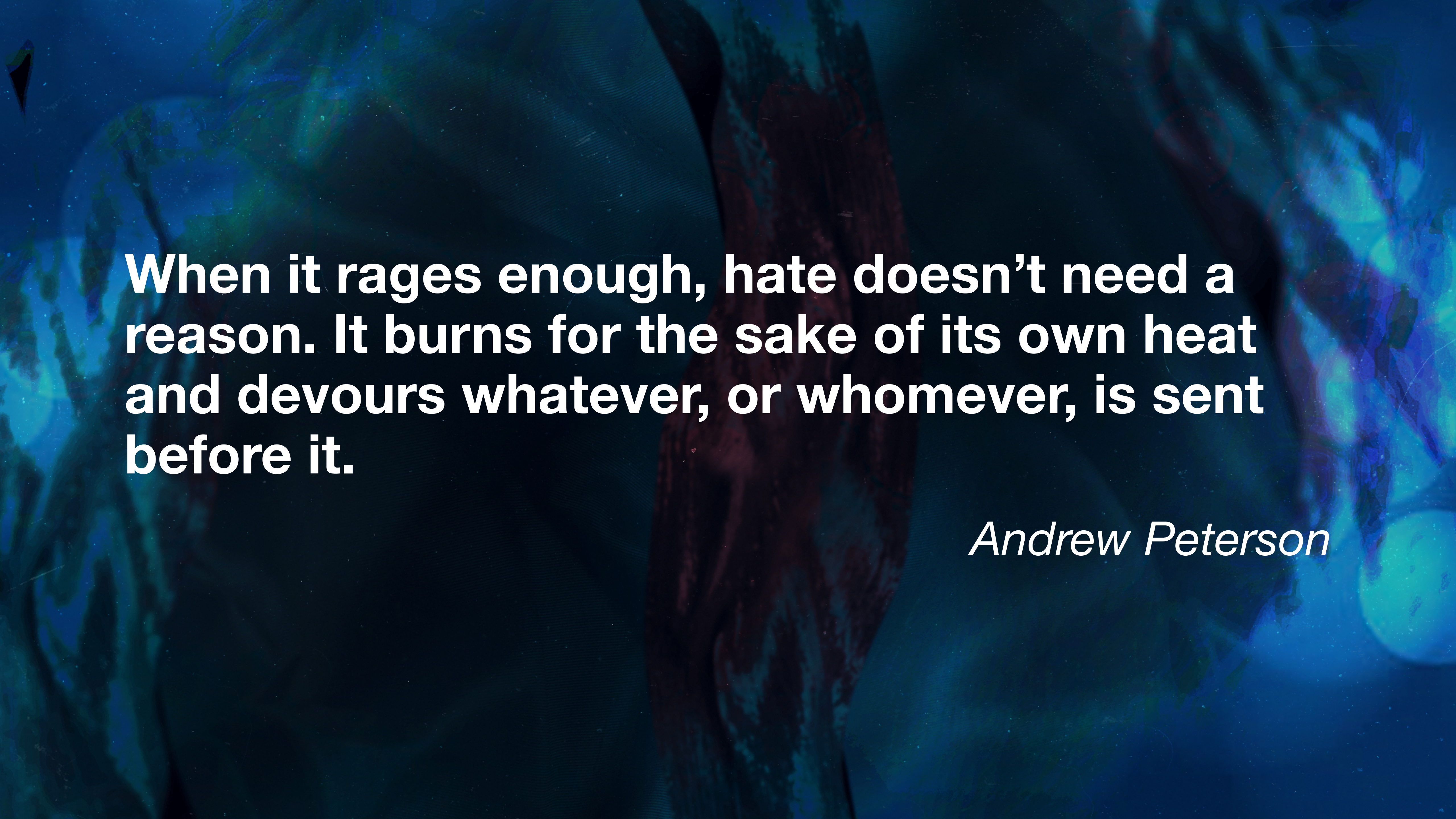
So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

James 4:17 ESV

3. Stand Against Cultural Erosion

**Why does the way of the wicked prosper?
Why do all who are treacherous thrive?**

Jeremiah 12:1b ESV



When it rages enough, hate doesn't need a reason. It burns for the sake of its own heat and devours whatever, or whomever, is sent before it.

Andrew Peterson



Love Your Enemies

Paradoxically, Satan channeled wrath against Jesus through human agents who nailed Him to the cross, but it was simultaneously God's work of atonement.

*Karen Jobes
The NIV Application Commentary*



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2. Do the Right Thing, No Matter What

3. Stand Against Cultural Erosion