

**~ABAGTHA (34)**  
**(A-bag'tha)**

- The name of one of seven court officials who ministered to the Persian king Ahasuerus, the husband of the Jewess Esther, in his palace in Shushan, then capital of Persia.
- On the seventh day, when the king's heart was in a merry mood with wine, he said to Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha and **Abagtha**, Zethar and Carkas, the seven court officials that were ministering to the person of King Ahasuerus. (**Esther 1:10**)
- In the **King James Version**, **Abagtha** is said to be one of seven chamberlains, and the marginal reading says **eunuchs**. While eunuchs were frequently used as trusted servants within royal households in Middle Eastern countries, the original **Hebrew** word **sa-ris'** primarily has the meaning of **court official** and only secondarily has reference to a castrated person. Since these seven court officials were attendants of the king and apparently not assigned as guardians of the women, as was Hegai, the king's eunuch mentioned at,
- And let the king appoint commissioners in all the jurisdictional districts of his realm, and let them collect together all the young women, virgins, beautiful in appearance, at Shushan the castle, at the house of the women in charge of Hegai the king's eunuch, the guardian of the women, and let there be a giving of their massages. (**Esther 2:3**)
- They may not have been eunuchs in the physical sense, men who were castrated.