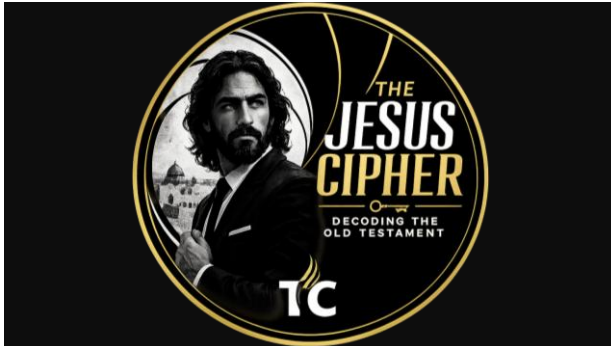
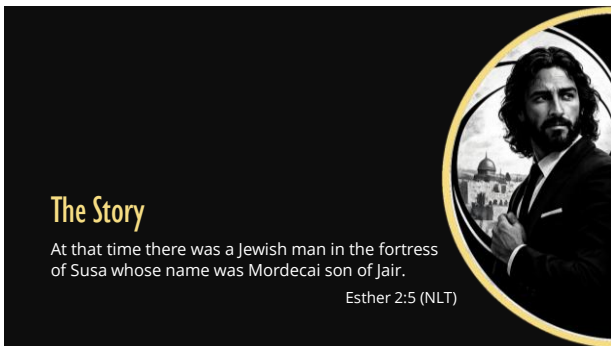




1



2



3

Esther 2:5-23



- Esther's entry into the court/harem
- Esther's progress/mobility in the court/harem

4

Discussion Questions



- How long did this process take?
- What is Mordecai's role in the court?
- Do Mordecai's instructions align with Jewish culture/beliefs?
- What perspective of God do Mordecai and Esther have?

5

Key Take Aways

"You examine the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is those *very Scriptures* that testify about me."

John 5:39 (NASB)



6

The CONTEXT Is Important!



- Historical Context
- Cultural Context
- Textual Context
- Scriptural Context

7

Fresh Insight



- What are the previous lessons or assumptions we have had about the story and characters of Esther?
- What might you be seeing in new or different ways now?

8

Hermeneutical Applications

If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.

John 14:7



9

Interpretive Methods and Tools



- How do we make ourselves more aware of CONTEXT as we read scripture?
- What questions can we ask that take us deeper into a story and its CONTEXT?

10

CONTEXT: Internal and External



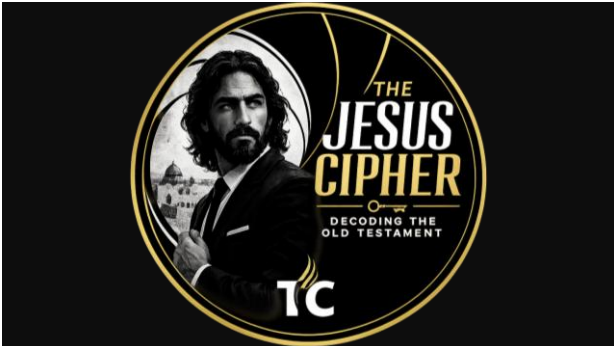
- **Internal:** What we can learn about Esther from the story itself.
- **External:** What we learn about Esther from sources outside the story . . .
 - Google search about Persian and Jewish history . . .
 - Other scripture such as Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Jeremiah, etc.

11



NEXT WEEK:
ESTHER — PART 3
 THE IMPORTANCE OF TEXTUALITY

12



13
