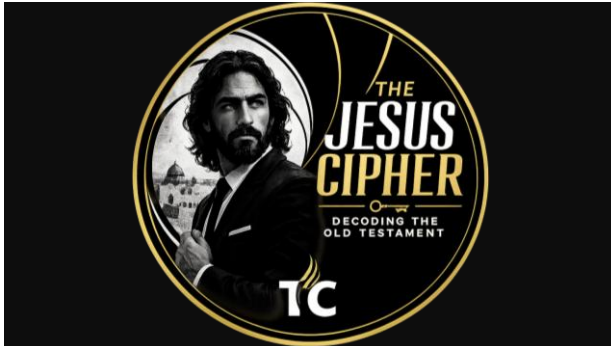
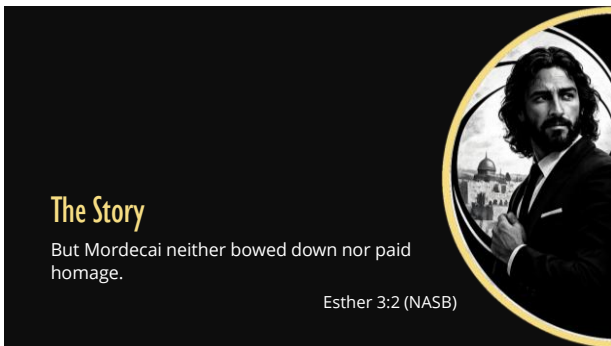




1



2



3

Esther 3



- King makes Haman his second in command
- Mordecai refuses to honor Haman
- Haman enraged and decides to kill all the Jews
- Haman convinces the king to make it law

4

Esther 4



- Mordecai and the Jewish mourning
- Esther's Dilemma
- Mordecai – Prophecy or Blackmail?
- The roles change

5

Textuality



- “The strict adherence to a text”
- See what is really there . . .
- Recognize when you read something INTO the text

6

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)



7

2 Schemers 

- Rooted in pride and power
- Haman and Mordecai

"But he considered it beneath his dignity to kill Mordecai alone, for they had told him who the people of Mordecai were; so Haman sought to annihilate all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, who were found throughout the kingdom"

Esther 3:6

8

Sackcloth and Ashes 

- Why and from what are they repenting?

"Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out."

Romans 12:2 (The Message)

9

Discuss



- Is this whole situation a result of Mordecai's pride?
- Is Mordecai a manipulator and schemer?
- What are the Jews repenting for?
- What is the significance of Esther and Mordecai switching roles?

10

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



11

Question our Assumptions



- Compare what you are reading to what you remember.
- Question the very base-line understanding you already have of the story.

12

Give the Characters Depth



- We often make bible characters 1 dimensional
- Remember the humanity of the characters

13

Remember GENRE



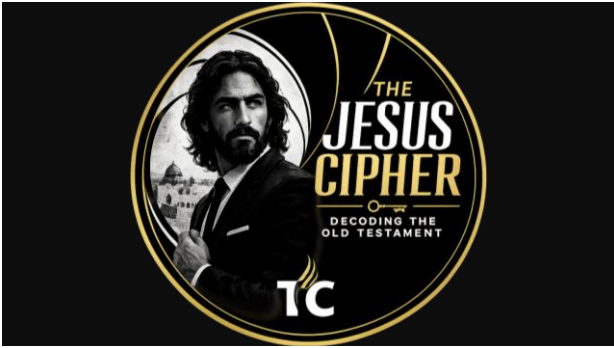
- Esther in structure and presentation is a literary story of intrigue, romance, betrayal, and justice.
- Does the GENRE change the power of the story?

14



NEXT WEEK:
ESTHER — PART 4
 THE IMPORTANCE OF CHARACTER

15



16
