

ESTHER

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VLCC 2026



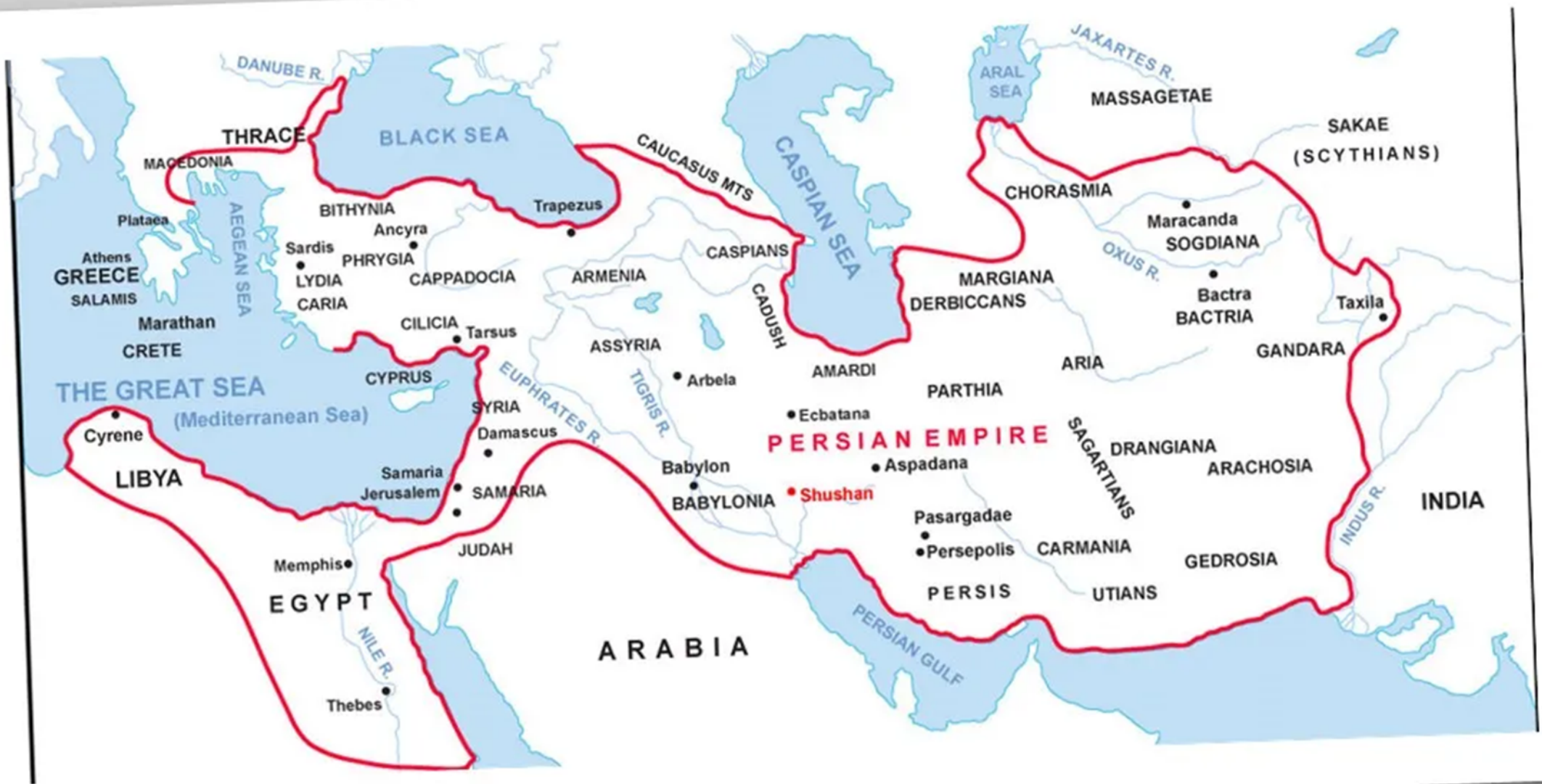


THE BOOK OF
ESTHER
Chapters 9 & 10

A mosaic of a woman's face, split vertically into dark and light halves, with text overlaid. The mosaic is composed of small, square tiles in various shades of gray, black, white, and gold. The woman's face is the central focus, with her eyes looking forward. The text is overlaid on the right side of the face.

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

Chapter 9



THRACE
MACEDONIA
ATHENS
SALAMIS
MARATHON
CRETE
GREECE
PLATAEA

BLACK SEA
BITHYNIA
PHRYGIA
LYDIA
CARIA
CAPPADOCIA
ARMENIA
CASPIANS
CADUSH
Trapezus

THE GREAT SEA (Mediterranean Sea)
CYPRUS
SYRIA
DAMASCUS
SAMARIA
JERUSALEM
LIBYA
CYRENE

EGYPT
MEMPHIS
THEBES
NILE R.

ARABIA

PERSIAN EMPIRE
JAXARTES R.
ARAL SEA
MASSAGETAE
SOGDIANA
MARGIANA
DERBICANS
PARTHIA
SAGARTIANS
DRANGIANA
ARACHOSIA
GANDARA
BACTRIA
BACTRA
TAXILA
INDUS R.
INDIA
GEDROSIA
UTIANS
CARMANIA
PERSIS
PASARGADA
PERSEPOLIS
ASPADANA
ECBATANA
AMARDI
BABYLONIA
BABYLON
SHUSHAN
TIGRIS R.
EUPHRATES R.
ASSYRIA
ARBELA

Victories of the Jews

¹The king's command and law went into effect on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month Adar. On the day when the Jews' enemies had hoped to overpower them, just the opposite happened. The Jews overpowered those who hated them. ²In each of King Ahasuerus's provinces the Jews assembled in their cities to attack those who intended to harm them. Not a single person could withstand them; fear of them fell on every nationality.



Esther and Ahasuerus
Geldorp Gortzius
(Leuven 1553 – ca. 1619
Cologne)

³All the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and the royal civil administrators aided the Jews because they feared Mordecai. ⁴For Mordecai exercised great power in the palace, and his fame spread throughout the provinces as he became more and more powerful.



The Triumph of Mordecai, attrib. Abraham van den Hecken the Younger, between 1635 and 1655

**⁵The Jews put all their enemies to the sword, killing and destroying them. They did what they pleased to those who hated them.
⁶In the fortress of Susa the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men,**



Esther and Ahasuerus
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**⁷including Parshandatha,
Dalphon, Aspatha, ⁸Poratha,
Adalia, Aridatha, ⁹Parmashta,
Arisai, Aridai, and Vaizatha.**

**¹⁰They killed these ten sons of
Haman son of Hammedatha, the
enemy of the Jews. However, they
did not seize any plunder.**



11 On that day the number of people killed in the fortress of Susa was reported to the king.

12 The king said to Queen Esther, “In the fortress of Susa the Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men, including Haman’s ten sons. What have they done in the rest of the royal provinces? Whatever you ask will be given to you. Whatever you seek will also be done.”



¹³Esther answered, “If it pleases the king, may the Jews who are in Susa also have tomorrow to carry out today’s law, and may the bodies of Haman’s ten sons be hung on the gallows.” ¹⁴The king gave the orders for this to be done, so a law was announced in Susa, and they hung the bodies of Haman’s ten sons.



¹⁵The Jews in Susa assembled again on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and killed three hundred men in Susa, but they did not seize any plunder.



¹⁶The rest of the Jews in the royal provinces assembled, defended themselves, and gained relief from their enemies. They killed seventy-five thousand of those who hated them, but they did not seize any plunder. ¹⁷They fought on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar and rested on the fourteenth, and it became a day of feasting and rejoicing.



18But the Jews in Susa had assembled on the thirteenth and the fourteenth days of the month. They rested on the fifteenth day of the month, and it became a day of feasting and rejoicing.



¹⁹This explains why the rural Jews who live in villages observe the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a time of rejoicing and feasting. It is a holiday when they send gifts to one another.



²⁰Mordecai recorded these events and sent letters to all the Jews in all of King Ahasuerus's provinces, both near and far. ²¹He ordered them to celebrate the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar every year



22because during those days the Jews gained relief from their enemies. That was the month when their sorrow was turned into rejoicing and their mourning into a holiday. They were to be days of feasting, rejoicing, and of sending gifts to one another and to the poor.



23 So the Jews agreed to continue the practice they had begun, as Mordecai had written them to do.

24 For Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them. He cast the pur—that is, the lot—to crush and destroy them.



25 But when the matter was brought before the king, he commanded by letter that the evil plan Haman had devised against the Jews return on his own head and that he should be hanged with his sons on the gallows.



²⁶For this reason these days are called Purim, from the word pur. Because of all the instructions in this letter as well as what they had witnessed and what had happened to them, ²⁷ the Jews bound themselves, their descendants, and all who joined with them to a commitment that they would not fail to celebrate these two days each and every year according to the written instructions and according to the time appointed.



28 These days are remembered and celebrated by every generation, family, province, and city, so that these days of Purim will not lose their significance in Jewish life and their memory will not fade from their descendants.



29 Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote this second letter with full authority to confirm the letter about Purim. 30 He sent letters with assurances of peace and security to all the Jews who were in the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus,



³¹in order to confirm these days of Purim at their proper time just as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had established them and just as they had committed themselves and their descendants to the practices of fasting and lamentation. ³²So Esther's command confirmed these customs of Purim, which were then written into the record.





**THE BOOK OF
ESTHER**

Chapter 10

Mordecai's Fame

¹King Ahasuerus imposed a tax throughout the land even to the farthest shores. ²All of his powerful and magnificent accomplishments and the detailed account of Mordecai's great rank with which the king had honored him, have they not been written in the Book of the Historical Events of the Kings of Media and Persia?



³Mordecai the Jew was second only to King Ahasuerus. He was famous among the Jews and highly esteemed by many of his relatives. He continued to pursue prosperity for his people and to speak for the well-being of all his descendants.





**KEEP
CALM
AND
START
DIGGING!**

**in
this
chapter**



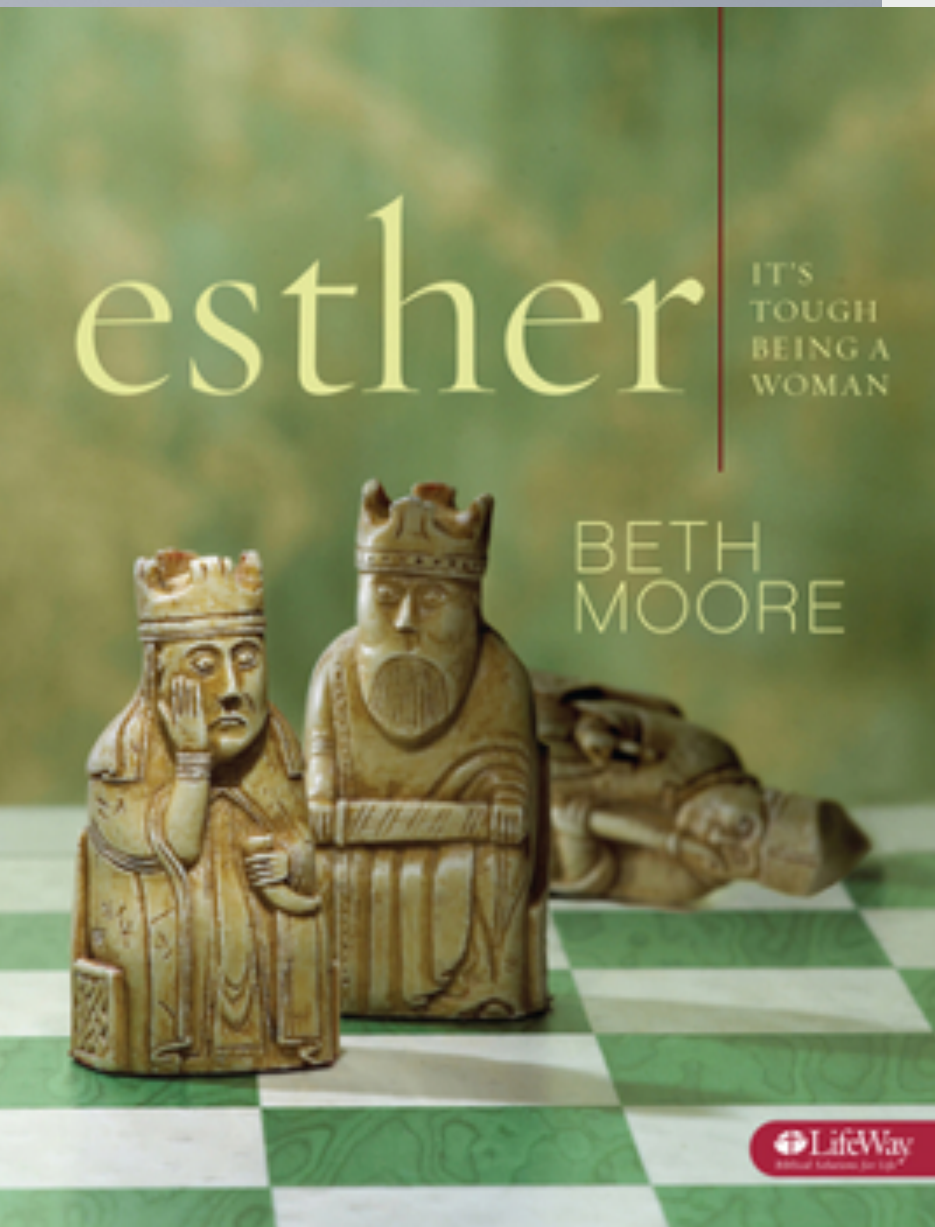
A Woman of Strength & Dignity

ESTHER

*Profiles in Character from*

C H A R L E S R.
S W I N D O L L

The temptation to go too far must have been great, but the Jews resisted. They pulled in the reins rather than let revenge and through the streets, wild and unrestrained. Human nature tends to do just the opposite. If the offender strikes, the offended strikes back. But if that cycle is ever to be broken, self-control must intervene and gain mastery over vengeance.



You see the edict permitted the Jews to plunder the property of their enemies yet three times we read that they refused. Why? We have just stumbled on the evidence that the Jews viewed this fight in terms of sacred and scriptural terms, “the Jews understood the execution of Mordecai’s degree as governed by the ancient command of holy war against the Amalekites”.

esther

IT'S
TOUGH
BEING A
WOMAN

BETH
MOORE



In the unpleasant reality of ancient kingdoms was the killing of the sons of an assassinated ruler. This radical measure ensured that no one would be left to usurp authority or avenge the father's death. Ironically, by requesting the public impaling of the son's dead bodies, Esther treated Haman as if he had been king.

A Woman of Strength & Dignity

ESTHER

*Profiles in Character from*

C H A R L E S R.
S W I N D O L L

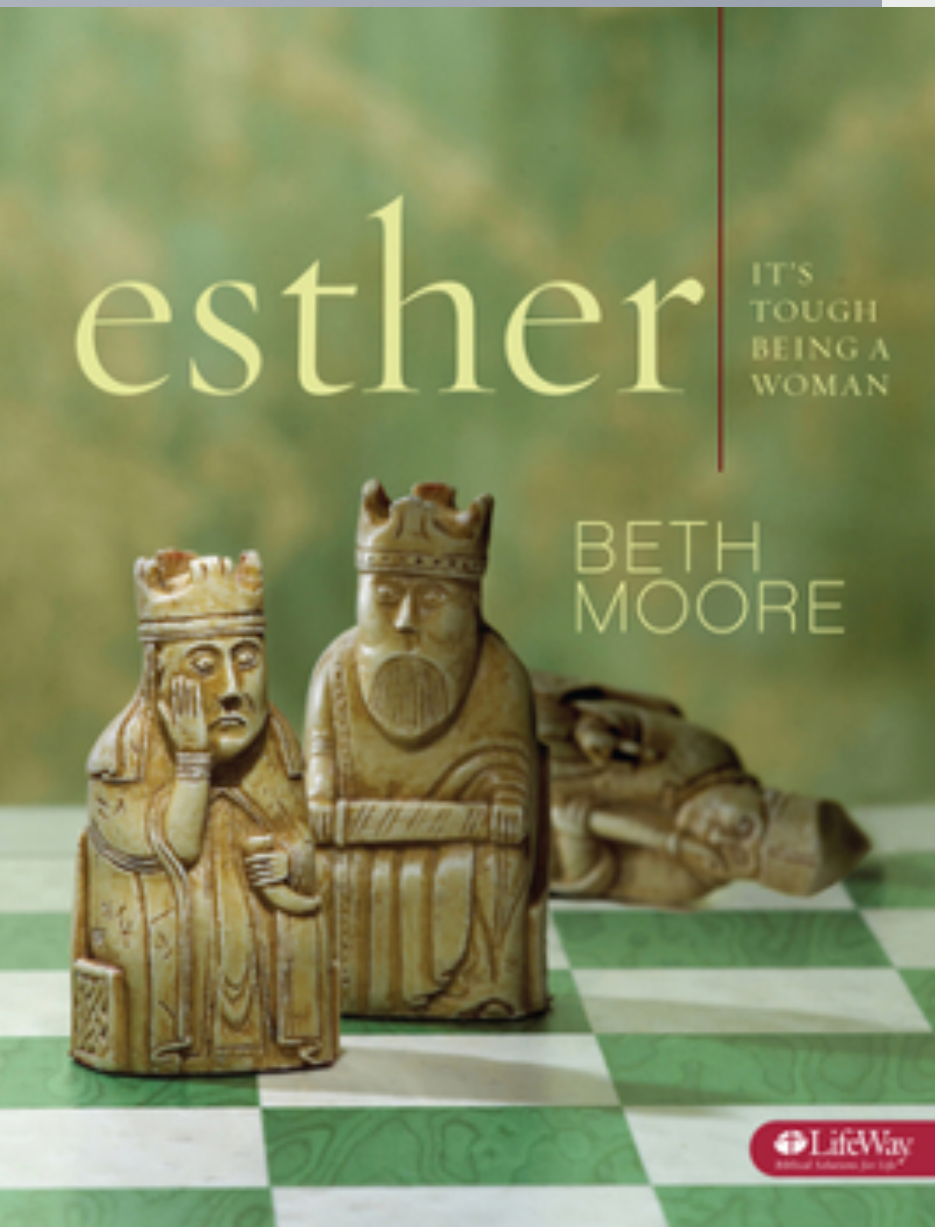
To this day, Purim is celebrated every year among the Jewish people. An era of fun and festivity fills the synagogues as children come dressed as their favorite character from the story. When the book of Esther is read, everyone participates by rattling noise makers, booing, and stomping their feet every time Haman's name is mentioned and cheering at the names of Esther and Mordecai.

Esther & Ruth

REFORMED
EXPOSITORY
COMMENTARY

IAIN M. DUGUID

It is the same with all our other annual celebrations: Thanksgiving, Easter, new year, even our birthdays. In the midst of all of the business of celebrating, and all of the feasting and giving, where is God? Do we remember the one who in love has redeemed this from futility and death? Do we stop to give thanks where thanks is really due, to our gracious heavenly father? When we celebrate life's good times, we so easily forget the greatest gift of all.



The story of Esther and Purim were not lost on the Nazis, who killed any Jew in the prison camps possessing a copy of Esther. Yet the incarcerated Jews wrote copies of it from memory. The story of Esther was most precious to the Jews facing mass death, because in it they found assurance and hope that they, not their enemy, would triumph.

A Woman of Strength & Dignity

ESTHER



Profiles in Character from

C H A R L E S R.
S W I N D O L L

All of us have skeletons in our closets that rattle and shame over our past. But those memories are not there to haunt us. They are there to help us- help us to learn, understand, forgive, love, do what's right, make restitution if necessary, and trust God for strength and for healing.

T H E N I V

ESTHER

**APPLICATION
COMMENTARY**



From biblical text...to contemporary life

KAREN H. JOBES

Reflection on the events described in Esther should make us more open to the creative and unexpected ways God works in us and through us. We're called to walk by faith, not by sight, however, that faith is a certainty in the unseen realities lying behind what we do see. We are to live with the knowledge that both our best moments and our worst are all part of what God is doing in us and through us in the lives of others.

Esther & Ruth

REFORMED
EXPOSITORY
COMMENTARY

IAIN M. DUGUID

What a difference understanding our forgiveness in Christ makes in our lives. Now we have peace with God. We have a peace that transcends any peace this world has to offer because it rests not on a Mordecai to plead our case before Ahasuerus, but on Jesus who brings us constantly into the presence of the King of Kings. Jesus is the one who seeks our good and speaks peace to us as his seed.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
START
DIGGING!**

**in
this
chapter**



A Woman of Strength & Dignity

ESTHER



Profiles in Character from

CHARLES R.
SWINDOLL

The book of Esther stands on history shelf like a condensed version of life itself. Though the fate of God's people hung precariously in the balance, in the end God triumphed over the impending tragedy

The image features a central red circle surrounded by several concentric blue circles, all set against a black background. The text "That's all Folks!" is written in a white, cursive font across the middle of the graphic.

"That's all Folks!"