

SHADOWS

GLIMPSES OF JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Esther

Week 10 | Esther 4:1-17

All throughout the Old Testament, we see story after story of faithful yet flawed men and women whose lives reflect glimpses of the **glory** of the coming King, Jesus Christ.

The story of Esther takes place after Babylon, Israel's captor, was invaded and defeated by the Persians. The Persian King Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Judah; and not only that, but he helped to fund and support the rebuilding of the temple. However, when Cyrus set the Jews free, they did not all return home. The book takes place in Susa, one of Persia's capital cities, where there remained a significant Jewish population, including Esther. During this time, King Ahasuerus was convinced by his advisor Haman to put an end to the remaining Jewish population in the King's domain. But unbeknownst to Ahasuerus or Haman, Ahasuerus's new wife, Esther, was herself Jewish; and providentially, she was therefore given a critical and unique opportunity to speak to the king on behalf of the Jews.

BEFORE YOU START

Pray for God to illuminate his word, guide the conversation, and stir our souls.

What celebrity would you most want to meet? Why?

Read **Esther 4:1-17**.

Summarize the passage in your own words. What stands out to you?



Compare verse 11 with verse 16. How are Esther's perspectives different? What led to this transformation?



What does this chapter tell us about how we participate in God's providential plan? Is there anything that comforts you? Is there anything that challenges you?



Where has God intentionally placed you? This week, how can you live in surrender to him where he has you?



How is Jesus the true and better Esther?

BEFORE YOU'RE SENT

What is God teaching you? What are you going to do about it? How can we help?

How can we pray for you? For your neighbors?