

Esther

A Cinderella Story with a Twist

Part 1

6.9.24

I. Introducing Xerxes and Vashti

A. The big party!

Esther 1:1 These events took place during the days of Ahasuerus, who ruled 127 provinces from India to Cush. ² In those days King Ahasuerus reigned from his royal throne in the fortress at Susa. ³ He held a feast in the third year of his reign for all his officials and staff, the army of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the officials from the provinces. ⁴ He displayed the glorious wealth of his kingdom and the magnificent splendor of his greatness for a total of 180 days.

Xerxes aka Ahasuerus



He had a temper

He loved to party

He had a strong sexual appetite

B. The queen's dilemma

Esther 1:10 On the seventh day, when the king was feeling good from the wine, Ahasuerus commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carkas—the seven eunuchs who personally served him— ¹¹ to bring Queen Vashti before him with her royal crown. He wanted to show off her beauty to the people and the officials, because she was very beautiful. ¹² But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command that was delivered by his eunuchs. The king became furious and his anger burned within him.

She was modest

She disobeyed

She could have lost her life

She really embarrassed the king and concerned others.

She is banished

II. Introducing Esther

A. The king begins his search for a new queen

Esther 2:1 Some time later, when King Ahasuerus's rage had cooled down, he remembered Vashti, what she had done, and what was decided against her. ² The king's personal attendants suggested, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king required beauty treatments.

Esther 2: 7 Mordecai was the legal guardian of his cousin[Ⓜ] Hadassah (that is, Esther), because she had no father or mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was extremely good-looking. When her father and mother died, Mordecai had adopted her as his own daughter.

B. Who is Esther?

She was without parents.

She lived with Mordecai

She was Jewish

She was beautiful

C. She would become Queen

Esther 2: 17 The king loved Esther more than all the other women. She won more favor and approval from him than did any of the other virgins. He placed the royal crown on her head and made her queen in place of Vashti.

III. Introducing Mordecai

Esther 2: 19 When the virgins were gathered a second time, Mordecai was sitting at the King's Gate. ²⁰ Esther still did not reveal her family background or her ethnicity, as Mordecai had directed. She obeyed Mordecai's orders, as she always had while he raised her.

Esther 2:21 During those days while Mordecai was sitting at the King's Gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who guarded the entrance, became infuriated and planned to assassinate¹⁴ King Ahasuerus.

A. He had great value to the King

He was a political advisor

He had the King an Esthers ear.

B. He would stop the assassination

IV. Introducing Haman

Esther 3:1 After all this took place, King Ahasuerus honored Haman, son of Hammedatha the Agagite. He promoted him in rank and gave him a higher position than all the other officials. ² The entire royal staff at the King's Gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, because the king had commanded this to be done for him. But Mordecai would not bow down or pay homage.

A. He was second in command to the King.

B. He hated Mordecai

Esther 3:5 When Haman saw that Mordecai was not bowing down or paying him homage, he was filled with rage. ⁶ And when he learned of Mordecai's ethnic identity, it seemed repugnant to Haman to do away with^{1a} Mordecai alone. He planned to destroy all of Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout Ahasuerus's kingdom.

C. He devised a plan to destroy the Jews

Esther 3: 8 Then Haman informed King Ahasuerus, "There is one ethnic group, scattered throughout the peoples in every province of your kingdom, keeping themselves separate. Their laws are different from everyone else's and they do not obey the king's laws. It is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them

Esther 4:3 There was great mourning among the Jewish people in every province where the king's command and edict reached. They fasted, wept, and lamented, and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Esther 4:8 Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa ordering their destruction, so that Hathach might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and command her to approach the king, implore his favor, and plead with him personally for her people. ⁹ Hathach came and repeated Mordecai's response to Esther.

D. Esther is hesitant.

Esther 4: 11 "All the royal officials and the people of the royal provinces know that one law applies to every man or woman who approaches the king in the inner courtyard and who has not been summoned—the death penalty—unless the king extends the gold scepter, allowing that person to live. I have not been summoned to appear before the king for the last^{1a} thirty days."

E. Mordecai's response.

He reminder her she would die,

Esther 4: 13 Mordecai told the messenger to reply to Esther, "Don't think that you will escape the fate of all the Jews because you are in the king's palace.

He reminded her that her position was not accident

Esther 4: 14 If you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will come to the Jewish people from another place, but you and your father's family will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this."

F. Esther prepares for the intervention

Esther 4: 15 Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go and assemble all the Jews who can be found in Susa and fast for me. Don't eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my female servants will also fast in the same way. After that, I will go to the king even if it is against the law. If I perish, I perish."

She asked for spiritual intervention from others.

She also seeks spiritual help on her own.

She accepted the risk

G. Esther goes to the King.

Esther 5: 2 As soon as the king saw Queen Esther standing in the courtyard, she gained favor with him. The king extended the gold scepter in his hand toward Esther, and she approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

5: ⁴ "If it pleases the king," Esther replied, "may the king and Haman come today to the banquet I have prepared for them."

H. Esther and the banquet.

Esther 5: 5 The king said, "Hurry, and get Haman so we can do as Esther has requested." So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared.

Esther 5:6 While drinking the wine, the king asked Esther, "Whatever you ask will be given to you. Whatever you want, even to half the kingdom, will be done."

---Post banquet blues by Haman

Esther 5: 14 His wife Zeresh and all his friends told him, "Have them build a gallows seventy-five feet tall. Ask the king in the morning to hang Mordecai on it. Then go to the banquet with the king and enjoy yourself." The advice pleased Haman, so he had the gallows constructed.

---A sleepless night for the King.

Esther 6:1 That night sleep escaped the king, so he ordered the book recording daily events to be brought and read to the king.

Esther 6: 3 The king inquired, "What honor and special recognition have been given to Mordecai for this act?"

The king's personal attendants replied, "Nothing has been done for him."

I. A bad day for Haman.

---Haman was about to ask permission to hang Mordi

Esther 6:4 The king asked, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman was just entering the outer court of the palace to ask the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows he had prepared for him.

---Haman is humiliated

Esther 6: 5 The king's attendants answered him, "Haman is there, standing in the court."

"Have him enter," the king ordered. ⁶ Haman entered, and the king asked him, "What should be done for the man the king wants to honor?"

J. Esthers second banquet

Esther 7:1 The king and Haman came to feast^[a] with Esther the queen. ² Once again, on the second day while drinking wine, the king asked Esther, "Queen Esther, whatever you ask will be given to you. Whatever you seek, even to half the kingdom, will be done."

---Esthers request

Esther 7: 3 Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if the king is pleased, spare my life; this is my request. And spare my people; this is my desire. ⁴ For my people and I have been sold to destruction, death, and annihilation. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept silent. Indeed, the trouble wouldn't be worth burdening the king."

---The kings response

7: ⁵ King Ahasuerus spoke up and asked Queen Esther, "Who is this, and where is the one who would devise such a scheme?" ^[b]

---Esther calls out Haman

Esther 7: 6 Esther answered, "The adversary and enemy is this evil Haman."

K. A REALLY bad day for Haman

---He was terrified

Esther 7:6b Haman stood terrified before the king and queen.

---He made matters worse

Esther 7: 8 Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall,^[a] Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, "Would he actually violate the queen while I am in the house?" As soon as the statement left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

---He was hung

Esther 7: 10 They hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's anger subsided.

L. Esther saves the Jewish people

Esther 8: 3 Then Esther addressed the king again. She fell at his feet, wept, and begged him to revoke the evil of Haman the Agagite and his plot he had devised against the Jews. ⁴The king extended the gold scepter toward Esther, so she got up and stood before the king.

---The king had to be creative in saving them

---The issued a new law allowing the jews to defend themselves instead.

Esther 8: 11 The king's edict gave the Jews in each and every city the right to assemble and defend themselves, to destroy, kill, and annihilate every ethnic and provincial army hostile to them, including women and children, and to take their possessions as spoils of war.

Close:

"Perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this." Mordecai

"If I perish, I perish." Esther