

Esther

A Cinderella Story with a Twist

Part 1

6.9.24

I. Introducing Xerxes and Vashti

A. The big party!

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.



B. The queen's dilemma

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

She was without parents.

She lived with Mordeci

She was Jewish

She was beautiful

She would become Queen

III. Introducing Mordecai

He had great value to the King

He was a political advisor

He had the King and Esthers ear.

He would stop the assassination

IV. Introducing Haman

3: 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

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

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

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.

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.

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,

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

7: 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

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

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

K. A REALLY bad day for Haman

---He was terrified

7:6bHaman stood terrified before the king and queen.

---He made matters worse

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

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

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. ⁴ The 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.

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

Part 2

Application:

- I. *Israel has and always will be the focal point of attacks*
- II. *We must embrace whatever “job” God has put us in*

*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.**”*

- III. *We must understand the power of God through providence.*

*2: ⁷ Mordecai was the legal guardian of his cousin^[b] 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.***

- IV. *We must embrace the risks associated with doing the right thing!!*

*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.**” Ester did prep....*

Close:

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

“If I perish, I perish.” Esther

