

## Important Women of the Bible

### Esther: The Reluctant Influencer

#### Various Texts

In this series we are highlighting how God glorified himself and blessed the world through key women from the Scriptures. Remember, Men & Women are Made in the Image of God, Infinitely loved by God, Equal in Christ, and Vital to the Kingdom of God in Unique Ways. Consider Esther!

“And drinking was according to this edict: ‘There is no compulsion.’ For the king had given orders to all the staff of his palace to do as each man desired.” **Esther 1:8**

“But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king’s command delivered by the eunuchs. At this the king became enraged, & his anger burned within him.” **Esther 1:12**

“He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.” **Esther 2:7**

“the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.” **Esther 2:17**

“And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai. When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. And it was **recorded** in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.” **Esther 2:22-23**

“Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, ‘There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king’s laws, so that it is not to the king’s profit to tolerate them.’” **Esther 3:8**

“Letters were sent by couriers to all the king’s provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.” **Esther 3:13**

“All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law – to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come into the king these thirty days.” **Esther 4:11**

“And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, ‘Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or

day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.” **Esther 4:14b-16**

“And Esther said, ‘If it please the king, let the king and Haman come today to a feast that I have prepared for the king.’ Then the king said, ‘Bring Haman quickly, so that we may do as Esther has asked.’ So the king and Haman came to the feast that Esther had prepared.” **Esther 5:4-5**

“‘What is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.’ Then Esther answered, ‘My wish and my request is: If I have found favor in the sight of the king, & if it please the king to grant my wish & fulfill my request, let the king & Haman come to the feast that I will prepare for them, & tomorrow I will do as the king has said.’” **Esther 5:6b-8**

“And the king said, ‘What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?’ The king’s young men who attended him said, ‘Nothing has been done for him.’” **Esther 6:3**

“And Haman said to the king, ‘For the man whom the king delights to honor, let royal robes be brought, which the king has worn, and the horse that the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown is set. And let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king’s most noble officials. Let them dress the man whom the king delights to honor, and let them lead him on the horse through the square of the city, proclaiming before; ‘Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.’” **Esther 6:7-9**

“Then Queen Esther answered, ‘If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be granted me for my wish, and my people for my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed and to be annihilated.’” **Esther 7:3-4a**

“Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, ‘Moreover, the gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, is standing at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high. And the king said, ‘Hang him on that.’ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai.” **7:9-10**

“Then Esther spoke again to the king. She fell at his feet and wept and pleaded with him to avert the evil plan of Haman the Agigate and the plot that he had devised against the Jews. When the king held out the golden scepter to Esther, Esther rose and stood before the king... Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, ‘Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows, because he intended to lay hands on the Jews. But you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king’s ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king’s ring cannot be revoked.’” **Esther 8:3-5a, 7-8**

“For Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Ahasuerus, and he was great among the Jews and popular with the multitude of his brothers, for he sought the welfare of his people and spoke peace to all of his people.” **Esther 10:3**

### **Esther: The Reluctant Influencer**

- **Stuff Going Against Her:** Orphan, Exile, Law Violator, Ancient Woman
- **Stuff Going For Her:** She could make a difference (an influencer).

*“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”* **Matthew 5:16**

- **God Glorified Through Her:** The hero is not mentioned...but he's there.

**Who is the Hero?** God is the Hero of the book of Esther!

- **God's Grace Toward Her:** A miracle foreshadowed.

*“But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.”*  
**Psalm 3:3**

*“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called Children of God;”* **1 John 3:1**

### **Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:**

- *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (2007)
- *The Gospel According to Esther* – Hershael York
- *For Such a Time As This* – John MacArthur (2012)