



The curious
story of

**Esther &
Xerxes &
Mordecai &
Haman & ...**



Esther

Chapter Eight & Nine

The King With His Hands Tied

PERSIAN EMPIRE CIRCA 486-465 BC



THE IMPOSSIBLE ASK

[3] 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 Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews. [4] When the king held out the golden scepter to Esther, Esther rose and stood before the king. [5] And she said, “If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and if the thing seems right before the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let an order be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king. [6] For how can I bear to see the calamity that is coming to my people? Or how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?”

Esther 8:3-6

THE KING WITH HIS HANDS TIED

[7] 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. [8] 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 8:7-8

THE NEW DECREE

[10] And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed it with the king's signet ring. Then he sent the letters by mounted couriers riding on swift horses that were used in the king's service, bred from the royal stud, [11] saying that the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to gather and ***defend their lives***, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, children and women included, and to plunder their goods, [12] on one day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

Esther 8:10-12

He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD.

Proverbs 17:15

[⁶] The LORD passed before [Moses] and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, [⁷] keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty...”

Exodus 34:6-7

THE NEW COVENANT

And [Jesus] took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ^[20] And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

Luke 22:19-20

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

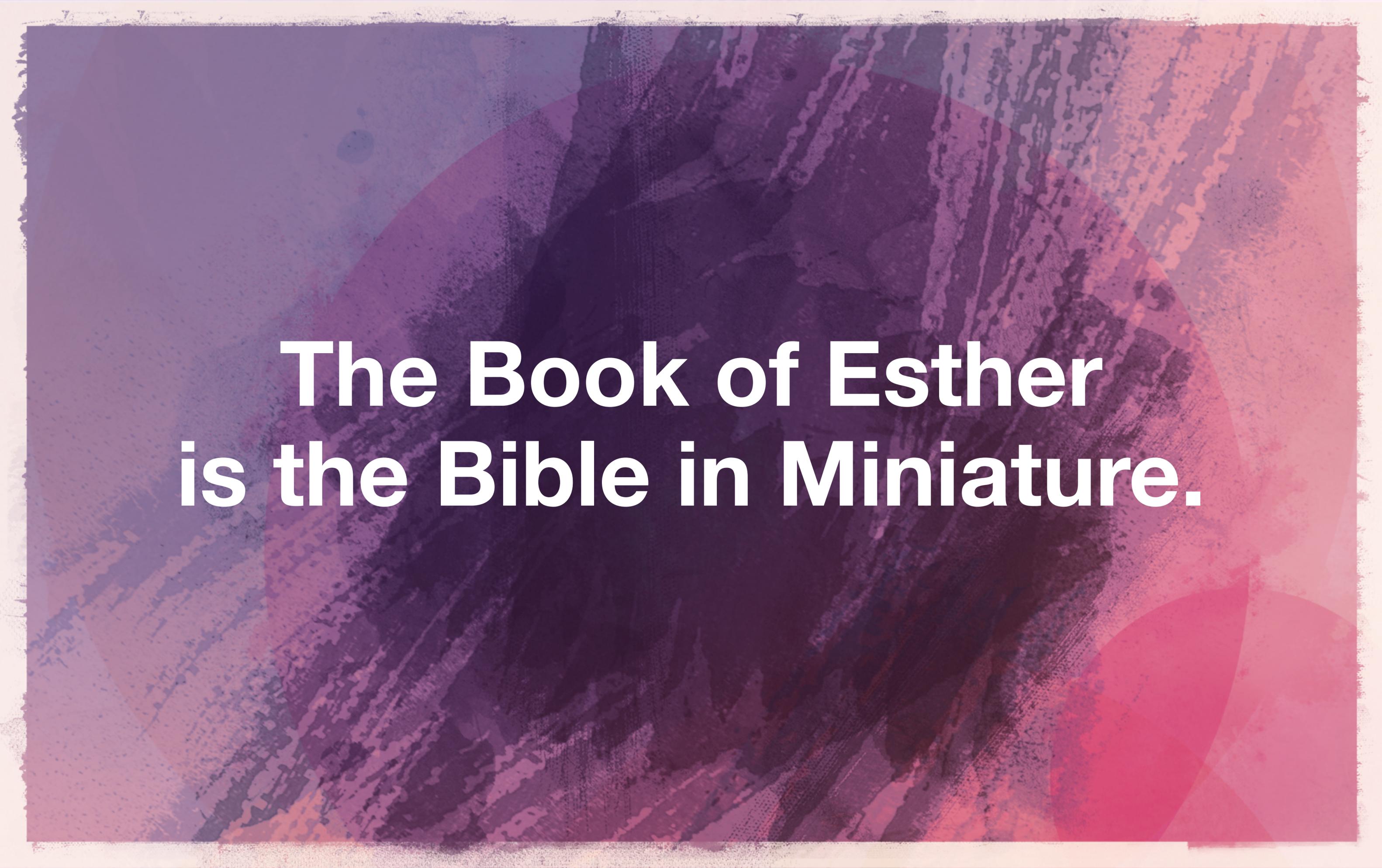
Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us —for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”

Galatians 3:13

SEEING THE PARALLELS

[15] Then *Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes* of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced. [16] *The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor.* [17] And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. *And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.*

Esther 8:15-17



**The Book of Esther
is the Bible in Miniature.**

THE MYSTERY MADE KNOWN

[2] for “My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, [3] in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”

Colossians 2:2-3