

May 19, 2019

Esther 3 – 7

## God Used Esther to Protect the Jews

Read **Genesis 12:1-3**. Four thousand years ago God made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants (the Jewish people). He promised to bless those who blessed them and curse those who cursed them. He has made many other promises to the Jews.

Because they are God's chosen people, the Jews have been the targets of Satan's attacks down through the ages. Pharaoh tried to wipe out the Jews by having all their baby boys thrown in the Nile. Hitler tried to annihilate the Jews in his death camps. Even today, radical Muslims want to wipe Israel off the map.

Throughout history God has protected and preserved His chosen people. In this lesson you will see how God used a simple Jewish woman to spare the Jews from another vicious plot of the devil.

**Est. 3:1-2**      What did the king do for Haman?

Who refused to bow to Haman?

**Est. 3:5**      How did Haman feel about that?

**Est. 3:6**      Did he want to punish only Mordecai?

What did he want to do?

**Est. 3:8-9**     What did Haman ask the king?

What did he offer?

**Est. 3:11**     How did the king respond?

A decree was sent throughout the empire, causing great mourning among the Jews. Mordecai told Queen Esther she should appeal to the king to save the Jews.

**Est. 4:11**     Why was Esther afraid to appeal to the king?

**Est. 4:13**     How did Mordecai reply?

**Est. 4:14**     What did he say would happen if Esther failed to speak up for the Jews?

What did he ask her?

**Est. 4:16**     What did she ask Mordecai to do?

What did she vow to do?

- Est. 5:1           What did Esther do after three days of prayer?
- Est. 5:2-3       How did the king respond to Esther's boldness?
- Est. 5:4           What did Esther ask the king?

The king and Haman came to Esther's banquet, during which she invited them to another banquet the next day. Haman felt very happy and important, but hatred for Mordecai stole his joy.

- Est. 5:14         What did Haman's wife and friends suggest?

That night the king couldn't sleep so he called for the royal records to be read to him. He was reminded that Mordecai had once foiled a plot to kill him (**Est. 2:21-23**), and discovered that Mordecai had never been rewarded for his good deed. Haman came in to ask the king to sentence Mordecai to death, but ironically the king told Haman to publicly honor Mordecai. Haman did as he was told.

- Est. 7:1-2       Haman and the king went to Esther's banquet.
- Est. 7:3         What did Esther ask?
- Est. 7:4         What did she say was going to happen?
- Est. 7:5-6       Ahasuerus wanted to know who would do such a terrible thing. She answered, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked \_\_\_\_\_."
- Est. 7:7-8       The king was so angry he stepped outside. What did Haman do?  
  
What did the king think when he returned?
- Est. 7:9         What did the chamberlain suggest?
- Est. 7:10        What happened to Haman?

**Concluding Thoughts:** In last week's lesson you learned that God dramatically changed the direction of Esther's life, making her queen of the vast Persian Empire. Like Joseph and Daniel before her, God elevated Esther to the highest level of a heathen nation. In this lesson you discovered why God did this – to protect His chosen people from annihilation.

Why does it matter that Esther spared the Jews from destruction? Four centuries later another young Jewish woman named Mary gave birth to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. **If Haman's wicked plot had succeeded Jesus could not have come into the world.** That would have meant no one could be saved!

God used Esther to protect the Jews almost 2,500 years ago so you could be saved today. God protects the Jews today because He still has many promises to keep concerning their future.

God is in charge of world events. He will carry out His plan – regardless of how bad circumstances may appear. Thank God for sovereignly guiding world events and for preserving the Jews.

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**Project:** Memorize **Esther 4:14**. Use your influence for good, and keep trusting God when things seem out of control.