

## The Life of Esther Esther 1-10

### Introduction:

Persia had overthrown Babylon to become the most powerful nation in the world. It covered an area of 127 provinces, most of which were countries before they were captured by Persia.

### I. Overview of the story of Esther.

#### A. Important characters in the story.

1. Ahasuerus (Xerxes) – King of Persia
2. Vashti – Queen of Persia
3. Hegai – Keeper of the women who were candidates for queen.
4. Esther – Chosen to be candidate for queen; later becomes queen.
5. Mordecai – Cousin of Esther (he raised her); uncovered plot to kill the king.
6. Bigthan and Teresh – Sought to kill the king.
7. Haman – High ranking officer of Xerxes; sought to kill the Jews because of Mordecai.

#### B. Story of Esther.

1. Xerxes throws two parties, the first lasting six months and the second lasting 7 days (1:1-9).
2. Vashti refuses to come to the king while he is drunk (1:9-12).
3. One of the wise men of Xerxes says that Vashti should be removed from being queen (1:13-18).
4. There is a competition for queen, of which Hegai is in charge of all the ladies (1:19-22).
5. Esther shows great wisdom in allowing Hegai to tell her what to wear and what gift to bring to the king. She is then selected as queen (2:1-18).
6. Mordecai discovers a plot to kill the king and makes it known (he is not immediately rewarded for this) (2:19-23).
7. Haman plots to destroy Mordecai and all the Jews (Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman like the rest of the people) (3:1-15).
8. Mordecai pleads with Esther about the life of the Jews (4:1-17).
  - a. At first, Esther refuses to help, but she later helps them.
  - b. Esther 4:13-17
9. Esther has a banquet for the king that only he and Haman are invited to (5:1-8).
  - a. She is offered up to half of the kingdom, but she makes the king wait for the request.
10. As Haman leaves this feast, Mordecai refuses to bow down to him (5:9-14).
  - a. Haman is so mad that he goes home and talks to his wife.
  - b. She tells Haman to make gallows (50 cubits high – about 75 feet) to hang Mordecai.

11. That night the king could not sleep, so he had the history book read to him (6:1-14).
  - a. Xerxes discovers that nothing has been done to honor Mordecai.
  - b. Haman shows up early that morning.
    1. The king asks Haman what he would do to honor a man whom deserved it.
    2. Haman immediately thinks that the king will honor him.
    3. Haman says to send the man on a horse that the king has ridden on and put a robe on him. Also send a “most noble prince” to announce before the honored man that this is a man that the king wished to honor.
12. Haman then goes to the feast that Esther has prepared for him (7:1-10).
  - a. During that feast, Esther’s request to the king is to save her life and the life of her people.
  - b. It is also pointed out to the king that it was Haman who sought to destroy the Jews.
  - c. Haman is then hung on the gallows that he had made for Mordecai.
13. Because of all this, the Jews are saved from their persecutors.

## II. Haman was full of pride in himself.

- A. Haman thought that he was a great person.
  1. He thought that he was always the one being honored.
  2. He thought that he was better than everybody else.
  3. He could not stand to see someone not honor him.
  4. Haman was ready to kill Mordecai because he did not bow down to him.
- B. Haman was full of pride.
  1. **Prov 16:18** - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
  2. **I Jn 2:16** - For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world.
  3. He could have used a lesson in humility.
- C. We all need to be humble people.
  1. **Phil 2:8-11** - And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. {9} Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, {10} that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, {11} and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
  2. Christ was exalted, and we have the promise of being exalted.
    - a. **James 4:10** - Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He

- will lift you up.
- b. **I Pet 5:5-6** - Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." {6} Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

III. Why are we here?

- A. Esther had a great responsibility because she was a Jew and her people were about to be killed.
1. She had been put in a position where she could save an entire race of people.
  2. There was a reason that Esther was in that position.
  3. **Est. 4:14**
- B. When we have an opportunity to do good, we must do it.
1. **James 4:17**- Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.
  2. **Gal. 6:9** - And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.
  3. Are we fulfilling the purpose of our lives?

Conclusion:

Esther did what she had to do to save her people. She used her position as the queen to save the Jews.