

# Esther

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The Extraordinary Queen



# Esther, the extraordinary Queen

We are look at the topic: from the ordinary to the extraordinary.

## The ordinary woman

- ◆ We go through life trying to balance work and family life.
- ◆ We go through life trying to build a Godly marriage.
- ◆ We go through life with daily struggles to get equal rights for education, for jobs, for pay.

And at the same time we have to show the level of compassion and insight, granted to women by God, in all aspects of life.

## Esther is an ordinary woman

- ◆ She is a young Jewish woman.
- ◆ She has been brought up in a home where modesty is the norm.
- ◆ She has not seen the world system at work, nor been involved in the power politics that take place at governmental levels.
- ◆ She appears to be part of a small minority ... the rest of the Jews had, it seems:
  - Intermingled by inter-marriage,
  - No longer studied the Torah
  - No longer kept God's Feasts



## History

The Jewish people had moved far away from the norm of worshipping God only. They had forgotten the wonderful deliverance from Pharaoh. They had allowed the Canaanites to introduce their pagan practices and idols into the daily worship in the Land of Promise.

God expressly said – “***no foreign gods in this Land - and if you do, then there will be consequences***”. This probably counts as the first Holocaust.

The Land of Israel is overrun ... many Jews are killed, and those who managed to stay alive, were taken into captivity. We have no idea how or what suffering they experienced.

Time had passed and they had gradually assimilated into that culture. So much so, that when the king decides to call for a 180-day party, it would seem that they took part in the festivities - there is no indication that they did not.

The Jewish people are clearly a minority in the kingdom. Haman speaks about them only after Mordechai has shamed him in public.

**Esther 3:8** *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."*

What will transpire is that Haman will offer to pay those who will destroy the Jews, and those who take part in this murderous act, will bring all of the treasures taken from the Jews into the king's treasuries.

**Esther 3:9** *"If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king's business, that they may put it into the king's treasuries."*

**Esther 3:13** *"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."*

*"Letters were sent by courier to all the royal provinces "to destroy, kill and exterminate all Jews, from young to old, including small children and women, **on a specific day,**"*

### **Does this not sound very much like the actions of the Nazi, who took the gold / diamonds and the paintings from Jews in Germany for themselves?**

- ◆ And the king - allows his greed to extend even further ... this man in charge of 127 provinces and with enough money to pay for a 6-month party, wants to take what belongs to others for nothing.
- ◆ We read in the Bible that the cost of a slave is 50 shekels.
- ◆ We can therefore estimate that the number of Jewish men numbered about 600,000 ... is that not interesting - years later when Jews had assimilated into Germany (and in fact were more German than Jew) 6,000,000 would be killed.

### **Esther as ordinary woman in the king's Palace**

- ◆ Esther is a young virgin.
- ◆ Esther gets given the best in clothes, perfumes, cosmetics.
- ◆ Esther gets to leave the harem and it is her turn to have a night with the king ... her conversation, her sense of humour, her beauty - something catches the eye of the king and she gets to wear the crown of the queen.

## Esther – the beginning of change from ordinary to extraordinary

- ◆ Esther is living in luxury ... she is surrounded by all the important people in the palace - she will hear all the stories, all the power plays, all the gossip.
- ◆ However, part of her upbringing and her value system is a critical part of this transformation.

### a) Principle: She knows who she should listen to in time of need

When Mordecai tells her not to reveal her Jewish heritage ... **she listens.**

**Esther 2:10** “*Esther had **not made known** her people or kindred, for Mordecai had commanded her not to make it known.*”

When the Eunuch advises her on perfumes ... **she listens.**

**Esther 2:15** “*When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, **she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised.** Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her.*”

When Mordecai tells her that Haman had plans to kill of her people and that she should go before the king ... **she listens.**



**Esther 4:8** “Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and **command her to go to the king** to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people.”

## **Esther moves from ordinary to extraordinary**

**a) Principle: After the exchange of letters between Esther and Mordecai, she realizes that she must do something**

She can die if she enters the king’s court without permission.

She can be doomed to a life in exile with this king, while her people go free, and return to the land of promise.

**Esther 5:2** “And when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, **she won favor** in his sight, and he held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.”

**b) Principle: However Esther knows whom she is serving as *only* True God**

Serving God requires making choices.

She chooses to work with the plans of Mordecai - and risk **everything** in order to petition on behalf of her people.

Esther knows that the politics / processes in the court are set rituals that have lasted for many years—therefore, for a woman to enter this domain, uninvited, is equivalent to waving a red flag to a bull.

She knows that any interference will be an affront to the princes and the high placed officials that rule with the king, and she knows that there is great risk. As a queen, she would expect to be invited to the king regularly. Any time delay may suggest that the king was displeased with her, and therefore her life was at risk.

**Esther 4:11(b)** “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 in to the king these thirty days.”

**c) Principle: Esther develops a masterful strategy**

She **arranges** for the king and Haman to visit with her - supposedly just for a meal. I wonder what the king thought - why would his queen invite another man to the meal?

**Did he ever suspect that she had an ulterior motive?**

**Esther 5:4-5** 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.

In an interesting play of circumstances she **arranges** that Haman will fall into a trap that will bring the king fully onto her side. She instinctively understands that someone who is corrupt and malicious enough to kill all of the Jews without reason, would also have a low moral value system when it comes to treating women with respect



**Esther 7:8** “And the king returned from the palace garden to the place where they were drinking wine, as Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. And the king said, “Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?” **As the word left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman's face.**”

**d) Principle: You must stand and take courage**

When the king is completely on her side, **she will ask ...**

For the reinstatement of Mordecai and at the same time, Esther's Jewishness would also be revealed.

## **Was it only now that she felt that her relationship with the king was secure?**

**Esther 8:1-2** “On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her. And the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.”

For the safety of her people.

**Esther 8:5-6** “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. 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?**”

### **e) Principle: Esther will marry the concept of the sovereignty of God with Man’s freewill choice**

Many believe that Yahweh can change circumstances to ensure that His Will is achieved, no matter what we do. In other words, God will orchestrate matters to achieve a goal.

Yet God has decreed that mankind has freedom of choice –this clearly means that God will not manipulate man, but when man chooses to work with God then amazing things happen.

God also uses “bad” circumstances to His gain - in the process, we are tested and grow stronger and are more likely to worship Him in Truth and in Spirit.

### **Ultimately, God remains in control.**

The Jews can be eliminated if Haman has his way. An edict is written which cannot be reversed. The only way to do anything, is to work with God.

### **Through fasting, prayer, and trusting that God will provide a way, Esther joins her freewill with faith that God will respond.**

As soon as the breakthrough has come at governmental level, the individual Jews will go forth and destroy the enemy. Interestingly, they do what they were told to do, many years before.

A Commandment had been issued by God ... destroy the Amalek nation. The reason why these Jews were in trouble is twofold - they had assimilated into this countries culture AND Saul had failed to kill this Amalek’s king many years earlier when he had the opportunity (you will recall that he was more interested in the cattle and the sheep as booty).

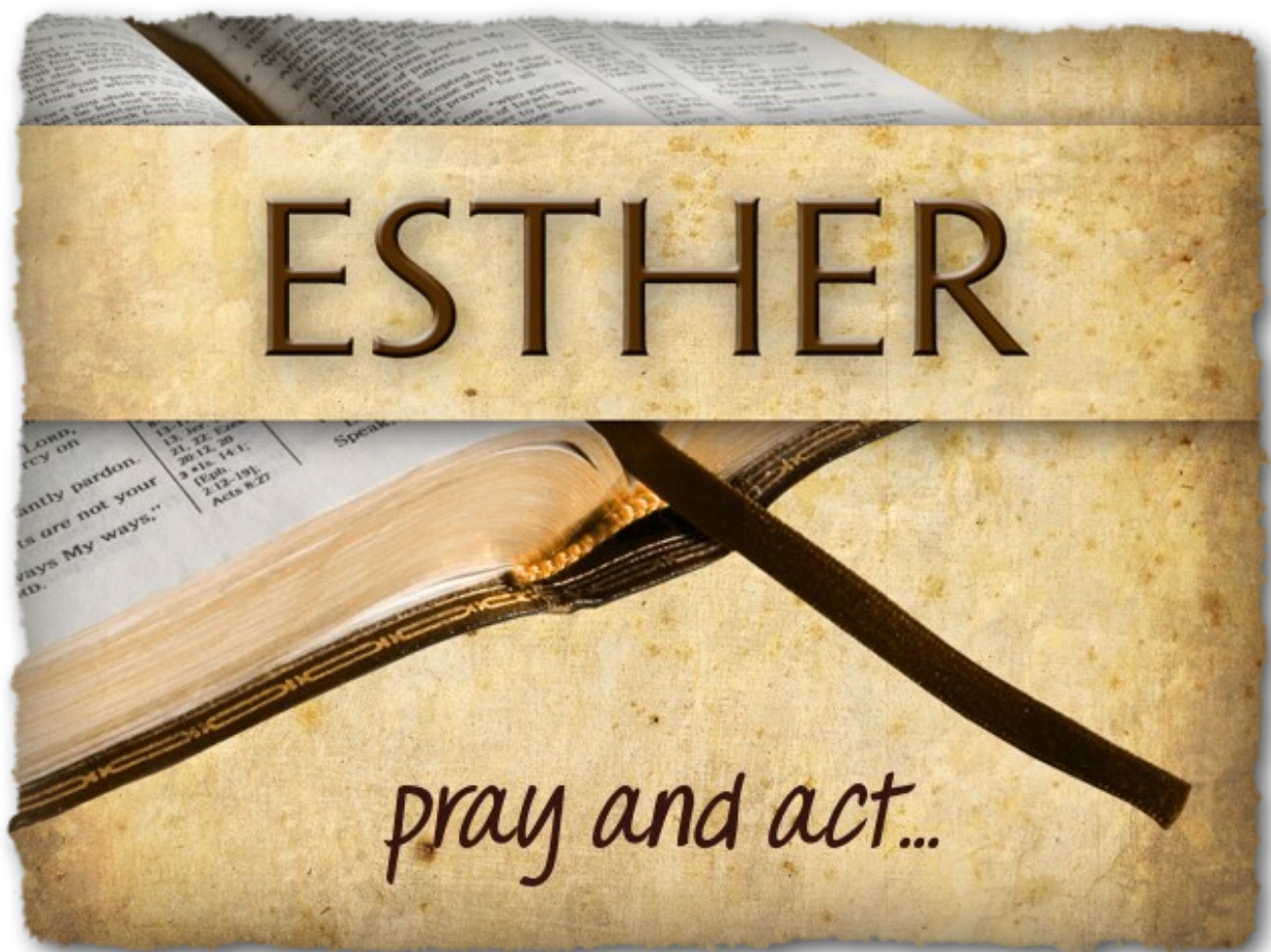
f) Principle: Esther and Mordecai recognize that God is in control

Mordecai does so when he tells Esther that this is her time.

**Esther 4:13-14** *“Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. **And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?**”*

Esther recognizes this when she asks the people to help her when she calls out for prayer and fasting. She understands that everything rests on God's timing. If she rushes in, all will be lost. If she waits until God gives the Kairos time, then the result will be a success.

**Esther 4:16** *“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.”*



## **g) Principle: Esther will honour God for their victory**

Esther will make sure that all Jews for the rest of time immemorial, will remember the work that God had done.

**Esther 9:26-28** *“Therefore they called these days Purim, after the term Pur. Therefore, because of all that was written in this letter, and of what they had faced in this matter, and of what had happened to them, the Jews firmly obligated themselves and their offspring and all who joined them, that without fail they would keep these two days according to what was written and at the time appointed every year, **that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, in every clan, province, and city, and that these days of Purim should never fall into disuse among the Jews, nor should the commemoration of these days cease among their descendants.**”*

**Esther 9:29** *“Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew gave full written authority, confirming this second letter about Purim.”*

## **Summary**

God is always in the picture.

**The question is ... can man identify Him and His purpose?**

**Will we recognize Him?**

- ❖ The Jews had been waiting for thousands of years, yet when Y’shua came, they failed to see / recognize him, because of their own teaching and traditions.
- ❖ 2000 years ago, Y’shua died on a cross, went into an unmarked grave, and did the greatest miracle –all unseen—when He was resurrected again – once again God was silent.
- ❖ Extraordinary women identify with the actions and deeds of Esther simply because a decree was issued ...

**You are free - live for Me!!!**

**AMEN!!!**