

## Esther – An Old Testament Historical Book – Part 2 of 2

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

All references in red are from: Engelbrecht, E. A. (2009). *The Lutheran Study Bible*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.

[Website: BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com) ♦ [Podcast: Benefit from the Bible](#) ♦ [Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma](#)

### The King Honors Mordecai (6:1-13):

1. The LORD's timing is perfect: <sup>1</sup> On that night [the night between the first and second banquet] the king could not sleep. And he gave orders to bring the book of memorable deeds... <sup>2</sup> And it was found written how Mordecai had [prevented an attempt to kill the king]. <sup>3</sup> And the king said, "What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" The king's young men... said, "Nothing has been done for him." <sup>4</sup> And the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman [who was behind the plan to exterminate all of the Jews] had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to speak to the king about having Mordecai hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for him.... <sup>6</sup> ...the king said to him, "What should be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?" And Haman said to himself, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" [So Haman said what he desired for himself.] ... <sup>10</sup> Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry; take the robes and the horse, as you have said, and do so to Mordecai the Jew..."
  - a. Let us remember the LORD's control: It seemed like Mordecai had been forgotten, while Haman had been given great authority under the king, yet the LORD was in full control; He is also aware of us and our needs.
  - b. Let us trust the LORD's timing: That very day Haman planned to hang Mordecai, yet, on that very day, Mordecai received great honor, so let us not despair – even at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour!
2. The LORD's hand of blessing became obvious: <sup>12</sup> Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered. <sup>13</sup> And Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the Jewish people, you will not overcome him but will surely fall before him."
  - a. They must have reasoned like this: Since you planned to kill him, yet, instead, you greatly honored him, there must be a greater power at work than you, so you must be fighting against God and will surely fail!
  - b. Are we fighting against God, ignoring God in our lives, seeking our will over His, saying "No" to His will and "Yes" to our will? Wherever such things are true, let us repent!

**Esther Reveals Haman's Plot (7:1-6):** At the second banquet, when the king and Haman were present, the king said to Esther, <sup>2</sup> ...what is your request? ... <sup>3</sup> Then Queen Esther answered [in a most endearing way], "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. <sup>4</sup> For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have been silent, for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king." <sup>5</sup> Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has dared to do this?" <sup>6</sup> And Esther said, "...This wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified...

3. *Haman was terrified.* "Haman knew there was little hope for him. The fear previously felt by the Judeans (4:3) now filled his heart" (769).

4. <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 10:31** “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Thus to reject Him and His ways, refuse to repent, and fall under His condemnation!

**Haman Is Hanged (7:7-10):** <sup>8</sup> ...As the word left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman’s face.

<sup>9</sup> 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.” <sup>10</sup> And the king said, “Hang him on that.” So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai....

**Esther Saves the Jews (8:1-17):**

5. The possessions of Haman went to Esther and Mordecai: <sup>1</sup> On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman.... And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her. <sup>2</sup> 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.
6. Haman’s plot of destruction was still in place (see 3:12-15): So Esther asked the king to *avert – stop – prevent* the plot of Haman! <sup>7</sup> 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.... <sup>8</sup> 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.”
  - a. Since that was true, the king could not revoke what Haman had set in place; therefore, the king granted permission to write a counter plan.
  - b. As the initial plan went out to the whole kingdom, so the counter plan was written and distributed to the whole kingdom; it said <sup>11</sup> ...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, <sup>12</sup> on one day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. As the attack on the Jews was initially made legal for one day, so the counter attack was initially made legal for one day.
7. The new edict brought rejoicing among the Jews: <sup>16</sup> The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor. <sup>17</sup> 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. Try to imagine the situation; many people were possibly planning to kill the Jews who lived near them. But then the king discovered that his queen was a Jew, so Esther, with the king’s support, gave the Jews full permission to defend their lives. It was such a full reversal and the LORD’s blessing was so powerfully upon it that many “declared themselves Jews...”

**The Jews Destroy Their Enemies (9:1-19):**

8. A thorough destruction: <sup>2</sup> The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could stand against them, for the fear of them had fallen on all peoples. <sup>3</sup> All the officials of the provinces and the satraps and the governors and the royal agents also helped the Jews, for the fear of Mordecai had fallen on them. <sup>4</sup> For Mordecai was great in the king’s house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces, for the man Mordecai grew more and more powerful. <sup>5</sup> The Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and did as they pleased to those who hated them.

9. The numbers destroyed: <sup>6</sup> In Susa... the Jews killed and destroyed **500** men, <sup>7</sup> and also killed... <sup>10</sup> the **ten** sons of Haman... [the king also granted a second day of killing in Susa, which resulted in **300** more enemies killed] <sup>16</sup> Now the rest of the Jews who were in the king's provinces also gathered to defend their lives, and got relief from their enemies and killed **75,000** of those who hated them...

**The Feast of Purim Inaugurated (9:20-32):**

10. Great blessings should be remembered and celebrated: <sup>20</sup> And Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, <sup>21</sup> obliging them to keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year, <sup>22</sup> as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday... What do you celebrate and why?
- a. Christmas: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Good Friday: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Easter: \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_
11. The day was chosen by lot: <sup>24</sup> For Haman... had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur (that is, cast lots), to crush and to destroy them.... <sup>26</sup> Therefore they called these days Purim, after the term Pur.... <sup>27</sup> 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...
12. The deliverance of the Jews at the time of Esther points to the deliverance of all people through Jesus:
- a. All have earned death and hell:
    - i. <sup>ESV</sup> **Genesis 2:16-17** "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
    - ii. <sup>ESV</sup> **Romans 5:12** "...just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned..."
    - iii. <sup>ESV</sup> **Romans 6:23** ...the wages of sin is death [eternal punishment]..."
  - b. The Almighty God has intervened to reverse our sentence of death and hell:
    - i. <sup>NAS</sup> **Isaiah 53:6** "All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."
    - ii. <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 5:21** "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
    - iii. <sup>ESV</sup> **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

**The Greatness of Mordecai (10:1-3):** <sup>3</sup> ...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 his people.