

## Esther & the Persian Empire

### *God's Most Hidden & Most Active Hand*

**Esther 1:2-3** King Ahasuerus {a.k.a. Xerxes} sat on his royal throne...He gave a banquet for all his princes

**12** But Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became very angry...

**19** "Let a royal edict be issued and let it be written in ~~the laws of Persia and Media~~ **the laws of the Medes and Persians** so that it cannot be repealed, that Vashti may no longer come into the presence of King Ahasuerus, and let the king give her royal position to another who is more worthy than she.

**Esther 2:5-7** There was in Susa a Jew whose name was Mordecai...who had been taken into exile from Jerusalem. He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had no father or mother. Now the young lady was ~~beautiful of form and face~~ **petite and pretty**

**8-10** Esther was taken to the king's palace into the custody of Hegai, in charge of the women. Now the young lady pleased him and found favor with him. So he provided her with her cosmetics. Esther did not make known her people or her kindred, for Mordecai had instructed her...

**15-17** And Esther found favor in the eyes of all who saw her. The king loved Esther, and she found favor and kindness with him, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen.

**19** Then Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate.

**Esther 3:1-6** King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite. All bowed down and paid homage; But Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage. When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down to him, Haman was filled with rage. Therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews

**7** The lot was cast before Haman... **Proverbs 16:33** The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

**8-13** Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom" ...Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces to destroy, to kill and to annihilate all the Jews...

**Esther 4:1** When Mordecai learned all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and wailed loudly and bitterly.

**4** And she sent garments to clothe Mordecai that he might remove his sackcloth from him

**11** "Any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live.

**13-14** "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews...And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

**16** "Go, assemble all the Jews, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days...And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."

**Esther 5:2-3** When the king saw Esther the queen, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter.  
Then the king said to her, "What is troubling you, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be given to you."

**4-6** Esther said, "If it pleases the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him."  
The king said to Esther, "What is your petition, for it shall be granted to you? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be done."

**14** Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "Make a gallows fifty cubits high and ask the king to have Mordecai hanged on it

**Esther 6:1-3** During that night the king could not sleep so he gave an order to bring the book of records, the chronicles, and they were read.

**4** So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court

**10** Then the king said to Haman, "Take quickly the robes and the horse as you have said, and do so for Mordecai the Jew

**Esther 7:1-2** The king said to Esther, "What is your petition? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be done."

**3-4** We have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed and to be annihilated

**6** Esther said, "This wicked Haman!" Then Haman became terrified

**Esther 8:4-5** The king extended the golden scepter to Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king.  
She said, "...Let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman"

**11** The king granted the Jews who were in each and every city the right to defend their lives, to destroy, to kill and to annihilate the entire army which might attack them

**Esther 9:2** No one could stand before them, for the dread of them had fallen on all the peoples.

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**Law of sin & death:**                      **Ezekiel 18:20** The person who sins will die                      **Romans 3:23** All have sinned

**Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

**Galatians 3:27** All of you who were ~~baptized~~ **identified** into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**Ephesians 1:6** ...His grace, ~~which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved~~ **by which we have become accepted in the Beloved**

**Hebrews 4:16** Therefore let us ~~draw near with confidence~~ **come boldly to the throne of grace**

**1 John 4:18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love

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For a printed version of Johnny Tatum's series on "**Esther: An Allegory**", go to: [radicalgrace.com/esther.htm](http://radicalgrace.com/esther.htm)