

Esther Summary

Chapter 1.

King Ahasuerus, in the third year of his reign had several feast celebrations. One celebration was 180 days and the other for seven days. He celebrated the majesty of his Kingdom, which he was very proud of. His wife, Queen Vashti also held a feast.

- King Ahasuerus wanted to show off his wife the queen, because of her beauty. So, he called for her, but she didn't come.
- The King became very angry and asked his wise men what he should do. They said this behavior will spread and all women will despise their husbands.
- So, he kicked her out and gave her estate and position to another.
- He decreed to all other wives to give their husbands honor. He declared men to rule their houses.

Chapter 2.

King Ahasuerus after he calms down, thinks about the queen. He replaces her and has the virgins apply to be the new queen. Now the Jews were in captivity from Babylon. And one of the Jews, Mordecai had a cousin (his uncle's daughter) was named Esther. Esther was very beautiful to look at. So, Esther was one of the women who applied to be the queen. And she won favor with the manager. But Mordecai told her to hide the fact that she was a Jew and he would come by monitoring every day.

- The king chooses Esther as queen.
- She continued to follow Mordecai's instructions by not revealing that she was a Jew.
- Mordecai sits by the gate outside the King's Palace and he finds out about an assassination attempt. So, he tells Esther and Esther tells the king, and they saved the King's life.
 - The two would be killers or assassins are hung.
 - They wrote about this failed assassination attempt in the Book of chronicles.

Chapter 3.

Now, Haman an Agagite, who was an Amalekite was promoted. Everyone is supposed to revere him and bow when he walks by. Note: Amalek is one of first nations to attack the Jews and they were supposed to be destroyed – see 1 Samuel 15:1-28.

- Mordecai doesn't bow before Haman and he tells them he is a Jew.
- Haman is very angry about this and instead of just dealing with Mordecai he wants to destroy all the Jews.
- The following events happen in the month of Nissan which is the first month
 - Haman gets permission from the King to kill all the Jews.
 - In verse 12 of Chapter 3, a decree goes out on the 13th day of the first month.
 - They can kill all the Jews; like an earlier holocaust.

Chapter 4.

Mordecai finds out and mourns the news. All the Jews find out and they also mourn. They sit in sackcloth and ashes, and they rent their clothes. Esther finds out from Mordecai what has happened.

- Mordecai asks Esther to go to the king and ask him to save the people.
- Esther responds to Mordecai. Through an agent. And says she can't do that. She can't go into the inner court unless she's invited or she could be killed unless the king pardons you.
 - It's been 30 days since she was last requested to be seen by the king. So she's fearful.
- Mordecai's response is in verse 13 and 14.
 - Don't think that you will escape.
 - If you don't speak up and take action. The Jews will be delivered from another source. But you and your family? Still will not survive.
 - Who knows? You may be here to deliver for such a time as this. Meaning you may be in the position you are right now, in the palace and in the Kingdom for God to use you.
- Esther agrees to help and asked for Mordecai and all the Jews to fast with her for three days.

Chapter 5.

Three days later during the first month, she goes before the king and receives favor. She is allowed to draw closer to the King and make her request. She wants to prepare a banquet for both the King and Haman to attend. The banquet is held.

- Esther is granted another request. She asked that they attend another banquet tomorrow.
- Haman is happy about this invitation to a second banquet (verse 9).
- Haman passes by Mordecai still not giving him respect.
- He goes home. He called all his friends and his wife to brag about his glory and good fortune and the promotion. But in all of his celebration, he still complains about Mordecai.
- His friends and wives advise him to get permission from the king and Hang Mordecai.
- The suggestion from his friends and wife, please Haman so he builds the gallows, with the intent to hang Mordecai tomorrow.

Chapter 6.

Now the king can't sleep, so he decides to read the book of chronicles and he sees where Mordecai saved him. He asked if Mordecai got a reward. Mordecai did not get a reward for his part in foiling the assassination attempt. Haman happens to show up to request permission from the King to hang Mordecai. The king calls for him and asks him what shall be done to the man who the king wants to honor? Haman thinks this honor is for himself so he provides a glorious recommendation (verses 6-10).

- Instead of him receiving this reward, the King commands Haman to give it to Mordecai.

- Haman now he has to serve Mordecai and get him prepared and give him a parade.
- After he does this, Haman goes home, greatly bothered by this. Now his wife and advisers tell him if Mordecai is a Jew. You are about to fall before him.

Chapter 7.

This is the second banquet day. Esther gets another request at this banquet. She tells the king about the plight of her people, and reveals that she is a Jew. She tells the king about the death sentence upon her people. The king wants to know who is behind this plot and persecution of the Jews. Esther explains in verse 6 Haman is the adversary or the enemy of the Jews. The king goes out angry. Hamon tries to plead his case with the queen. The king comes back and finds him.

- Haman is sentenced to death and he is killed on the same gallows that he had intended for Mordecai. The adversary is defeated on this day.

Chapter 8.

Haman's home is given to Esther and Mordecai is promoted, and he set over it. Esther asked if the king would reverse the death sentence on the Jews. He cannot reverse what he had earlier said. Instead. He signs the decree to allow the Jews to protect themselves against anybody who comes against them. In verse seven we see that Haman is hanged because he laid his hand upon the Jews. So in the third month, the 23rd day, the letters go out, allowing the Jews to protect themselves.

- Verse 11-15; the Jews had light and joy and honor, and they had a very good day.
- In verse 17 it describes that many people became Jews as a result of this story and the fear of the Jews.

Chapter 9.

In verse one we see that the plan of the enemy is turned around. The Jews stand and they defend themselves. Mordecai is great and he is feared and he grows greater and greater. The enemies of the Jews are destroyed as we see in verse 5, and later Haman's ten sons are hanged on the gallows. In the verse 16 we see the Jews receive rest from their enemies.

- The Jewish celebration of Purim is instituted; celebrating how the Jews were saved.

Chapter 10.

Chapter 10 is only three verses long and describes the success and the greatness of Mordecai.

Key observation. The same day the Jews find out about the death decree, is around Passover, the same day Christ is killed. Three days later on or about Nisan 17, Haman is hanged and Mordecai is saved. This is the same day the devil is defeated and Jesus is resurrected and glorified.

God is once again rehearsing the feasts and showing evidence of end time prophesy. What are the lessons we can apply from this story today? Why do you think God delivers the Jews on this particular day?



This story is still replayed today and is a peek into end-time-prophecy. The enemy still rises up against us to block our development. The enemy is still mad when we don't bow down before him. Yet when it looks like all hope is lost, God will defeat our problem and deliver us. Be encouraged, we know how the story will end. We will win!