

ESTHER AT A GLANCE

THEME: GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO HIS PEOPLE

...DURING TOUGH TIMES		...DURING TRIUMPHANT TIMES
Selection of Esther (1-2) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The King Loses Vashti (1)• The King Chooses Esther (2)	Downfall of Haman (3-7) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haman's Evil Plot (3)• Mordecai's Great Concern (4)• Esther's Great Courage (5-7)	Protection of God's People (8-10) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The King's New Decree (8)• The Jew's New Victory (9)• Mordecai's New Honor (10)

5 PRIMARY CHARACTERS

King Xerxes: Powerful but erratic Persian ruler – focused on money, sex and power.

Haman: The villain – second in command to the King he was an influential Persian official angered by a Jew's refusal to grovel before him and determines to exterminate the race.

Queen Vashti: A woman of character and conviction – involved in opening scene.

Queen Esther: Raised by her uncle, Mordecai, she rises from obscurity to become Xerxes' queen.

Mordecai: A lesser (for awhile) Jewish official in the Persian court – He foils a plot against the King, then challenges Esther to use her influence to save her people.

THRIVING DURING CHALLENGING TIMES! LIFE LESSONS FROM ESTHER

1.

Vashti:

"But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger."

ESTHER 1:12

Mordecai:

"Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah (Esther), whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother...Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died." ESTHER 2:7

"After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman...elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor. Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, 'Why do you disobey the king's command?' Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply." ESTHER 3:1-4

"Our cause is never in more danger than when a human, no longer desiring but still intending, to do our enemies will, looks round upon a universe from which every trace of Him seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken...and still obeys."

—CS LEWIS, THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS

2.

"...Mordecai, sent back this answer: 'Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this? I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.'" ESTHER 4:12-14, 16

3.

"Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 'Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.'" ESTHER 4:15-16

4. **Uneventful Beginnings can lead to Unbelievable Endings**

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