

THE STORY OF ESTHER (Outline by Mark Copeland)

A. THE EXPULSION OF VASHTI.

- a. King Ahasuerus (Xerxes, 486 to 465 BC) of Persia has a six month celebration, followed by a seven day feast, also one hosted by his wife, Queen Vashti, for the women - Es 1:1-9
- b. Ahasuerus decides to show off his wife, but she refuses to cooperate - Es 1:10-12
- c. In anger, Ahasuerus has Vashti banished, as a warning to all wives - Es 1:13-22

B. THE ELEVATION OF ESTHER.

- a. A search to replace Vashti was begun - Es 2:1-4
- b. In Shusan there was Mordecai, a Jew raising his lovely and beautiful cousin Hadassah (Esther) - Es 2:5-7
- c. Together with other beautiful virgins, she underwent 12 months of preparation, and ultimately was selected to replace Vashti - Es 2:8-19
- d. But she did not reveal that she was a Jew - Es 2:20
- e. Meanwhile, Mordecai thwarted a plot against Ahasuerus – Es 2:21-23

C. THE EXTERMINATION OF THE JEWS PLANNED.

- a. Haman the Agagite, is promoted, but Mordecai as a Jew refuses to bow before him, which infuriates Haman - Es 3:1-5
- b. Haman receives permission from Ahasuerus to kill the Jews, the 13th of Adar - Es 3:6-15
- c. Mordecai mourns in sackcloth and ashes at the king's gate – Es 4:1-3
- d. Esther hears of her cousin, and learns of Haman's plan to kill the Jews - Es 4:4-9
- e. Mordecai convinces Esther to approach the king, at great risk to her own life - Es 4:10-17

D. THE EXTERMINATION OF THE JEWS THWARTED.

- a. Esther is granted an audience, invites the king and Haman to a banquet - Es 5:1-5
- b. She invites them to another banquet the following night, to make her petition - Es 5:6-8
- c. As Haman leaves he is angered when Mordecai refuses to bow to him; his wife and friends persuade him to build a gallows for Mordecai - Es 5:9-14
- d. That night the king can't sleep; reading through the archives he learns how Mordecai thwarted the plot against him, yet nothing had been done to honor him - Es 6:1-3
- e. The king asks Haman what should be done to honor a good man; Haman assumes the king intends to honor him and answers accordingly - Es 6:4-9
- f. The king has Haman bestow honor on Mordecai, Haman returns home ashamed - Es 6:10-14
- g. The next day, the king and Haman dine again with Esther; she tells of the plot to kill the Jews (her own people) and accuses Haman - Es 7:1-6
- h. In anger the king leaves, soon returning to find Haman assaulting Esther - Es 7:7-8
- i. Informed of the gallows Haman built for Mordecai, the king hangs Haman on it - Es 7:9-10
- j. Esther given Haman's house, Mordecai promoted, plan to save the Jews is made - Es 8:1-17
- k. The Jews are spared, their enemies destroyed, Esther and Mordecai institute the feast of Purim to commemorate the Jews' deliverance - Es 9:1-32

E. THE EXALTATION OF MORDECAI.

- a. Mordecai the Jews becomes second to King Ahasuerus of Persia - Es 10:1-3
- b. Mordecai becomes great and well received among the Jews, seeking their good and speaking peace to them - Es 10:3

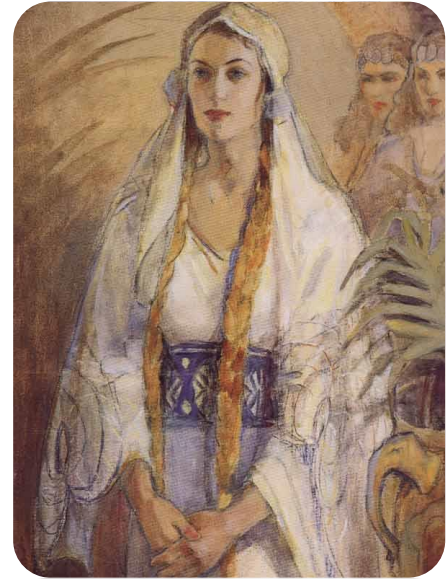
SERMON NOTES AM

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-14)

Esther (p 566)

- ✓ Expulsion of _____ and elevation of Esther (chs 1-2)
- ✓ Extermination of the Jews planned by _____ (chs 3-4)
- ✓ Extermination of the _____ thwarted by Esther (chs 5-10)



God Will _____ His Will In His Way

4:14 Deliverance

_____ Genesis 22 (p 22)
_____ Matthew 16:18 (p 1131)
_____ John 7:30 (p 1230)

Take Advantage Of _____

2:1-7; 2:15-18; 4:14

_____ Genesis 45:4-8 (P 53)
_____ Acts 7:20-25 (p 1260)
Lot? Genesis 13:10-12 (p 13) Judas? (Matthew 27:3-5 (p 1147)

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God. (2 Timothy 1:7-8)

The Faith And Courage Of _____ Person

- ☉ 4:11 _____ real
- ☉ 4:16 Sought _____
- ☉ 5:1-2 Blessed

HE WHO BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED WILL BE SAVED; BUT HE WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE WILL BE CONDEMNED. (MARK 16:16)

