

Esther**FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE**Cast of Characters

Xerxes/Ahasuerus—King of the Persians; most powerful man in the world

Vashti—King's first wife; woman of extraordinary beauty

Haman—Persian; king's right-hand man; despised Jews; evil/vengeful

Mordecai—Jew; raised Esther; stood alone as a righteous man

Hadassah/Esther—Jew; Mordecai's cousin; chosen to be queen of Persia

- 1) *1:2-3* Fathers did not volunteer their daughters, as evidenced by the king's appointment of officials to search for candidates.
- 2) *2:10* Mordecai did not know what this king's attitude was toward the Jews.
- 3) *2:12* The young women were trained to do one thing: satisfy the desires of the king.
- 4) *2:15* Esther's modesty and humility impressed everyone who saw her.
- 5) *3:6* Haman plotted a day of execution for all of the Jews in the kingdom. He brought his proposal to Xerxes, and the king signed it without realizing his bride would be affected by this mass slaughter.
- 6) *4:14* Mordecai demanded that Esther speak to the king and beg him to revoke the decree. But Persian kings could not revoke written law, and no one, not even the queen, could approach the king without being summoned.
- 7) *4:16* Esther had no super powers; she had only her reputation, her intellect and, her convictions.
- 8) *5:2* Esther experienced what believers will one day experience when standing before the King of Kings...God will turn His golden scepter in our direction (Romans 8:1).

9) Chapter 6 weaves together what seem trivial details, fitting them together to overrule Haman's evil plan.

10) *7:3-4* Esther, while she needed some convincing, was able to save the Jewish population in Persia. She is considered one of the most heroic women in Jewish history.

11) Esther implicitly teaches God's providence.

12) The question is not "Where do I live and work?" but "For whom do I live and work, for myself or for my Lord?"

13) A lesson about Israel: Every enemy that has ever tried to destroy Israel has been destroyed. "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you" (Genesis 12:3, NKJV).

TODAY'S SONGS

"Lay Me Down" words and music by Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin, and Jason Ingram
© 2012 S. D. G. Publishing | Said And Done Music | sixsteps Music | Sixsteps Songs | Thankyou Music | Worship Together Music | worshiptogether.com songs | SHOUT! Music Publishing | Sony/ATV Timber Publishing | West Main Music | Windsor Hill Music

"I Will Look Up" words and music by Jason Ingram, Matt Redman, Wade Joye, Chris Brown, and Mack Brock

© 2013 Said And Done Music | sixsteps Music | Thankyou Music | worshiptogether.com songs | Sony/ATV Timber Publishing | Sony/ATV Tree Publishing

"The Stand" words and music by Joel Houston
© 2005 Hillsong Music Publishing