

## ~MORDECAI 2 (507)

(Mor'de-cai)

- Loyal As Servant To The King
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- A Man Of Faith

- The son of Jair the son of Shimei the son of Kish a Benjaminite.
- A certain man, a Jew, happened to be in Shushan the castle, and his name was **Mordecai** the son of Jair the son of Shimei the son of Kish a Benjaminite. (**Esther 2:5**)
- An older cousin and guardian of Esther.
- And he came to be the caretaker of Hadassah, that is, Esther, the daughter of his father's brother, for she had neither father nor mother, and the young woman was pretty in form and beautiful in appearance, and at the death of her father and her mother **Mordecai** took her as his daughter. (**Esther 2:7**)
- **Mordecai** is portrayed solely in the Bible book of Esther. The book recounts his prominent part in the affairs of the Persian Empire early in the **Fifth Century B.C.E.** Evidence points to him as the writer of the book of Esther.
- Some doubt the authenticity of the book or that **Mordecai** was a real person. Their objection, that he would have had to have been at least 120 years old with a beautiful cousin 100 years younger, is based on the erroneous assumption that,
- A certain man, a Jew, happened to be in Shushan the castle, and his name was Mordecai the son of Jair the son of Shimei the son of Kish a Benjaminite. (**Esther 2:5**)
- Who had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the deported people who were taken into exile with Jeconiah the king of Judah whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon took into exile. (**Esther 2:6**)

- Denotes that **Mordecai** went into Babylonian exile along with King Jeconiah.
- However, the Bible's purpose in this text is, not to recount **Mordecai's** history, but to give his lineage. Kish may have been **Mordecai's** great-grandfather, or even an earlier ancestor who was taken into exile.
- Another view, harmonious with Biblical expression, is that Mordecai, though born in exile, was considered to have been taken into exile in **617 B.C.E**, since he was in the loins of his ancestors, as yet unborn.
- And, if I may use the expression, through Abraham even Levi who receives tithes has paid tithes. (**Hebrews 7:9**)
- For he was still in the loins of his forefather when Melchizedek met him. (**Hebrews 7:10**)

#### .. Loyal As Servant To The King

- In the account, **Mordecai**, although a Jewish exile, was a servant of the king. He heard that Queen Vashti had been deposed by King Ahasuerus of Persia and that all the beautiful young virgins throughout the empire were being brought together so that from among them a replacement might be found for the queenly office.
- **Mordecai's** cousin Esther, a girl pretty in form and beautiful in appearance, was introduced into the candidacy for queenship, but her Jewish background was not revealed.
- And he came to be the caretaker of Hadassah, that is, Esther, the daughter of his father's brother, for she had neither father nor mother, and the young woman was pretty in form and beautiful in appearance, and at the death of her father and her mother **Mordecai** took her as his daughter. (**Esther 2:7**)
- And it came about that, when the king's word and his Law were heard, and when many young women were collected together at Shushan the castle in charge of Hegai, then Esther was taken to the king's house in charge of Hegai the guardian of the women. (**Esther 2:8**)

#### .. She Was Selected As Queen

- **Mordecai** continued in his duties, sitting in the king's gate, when information was brought to him that two of the court officials, Bigthan and Teresh, were plotting to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.
- He warned the king through Esther, and his act of loyalty was recorded in the book of the affairs of the days.
- In those days while **Mordecai** was sitting in the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two court officials of the king, doorkeepers, became indignant and kept seeking to lay hand on King Ahasuerus. (**Esther 2:21**)
- And the thing came to be known to **Mordecai**, and he immediately told Esther the queen. In turn Esther talked to the king in **Mordecai's** name. (**Esther 2:22**)
- So the matter was sought out and eventually found out, and both of them got to be hanged on a stake, after which it was written in the book of the affairs of the days before the king. (**Esther 2:23**)

## .. Refuses To Bow To Haman

- Subsequent to this, Haman the Agagite was made prime minister by Ahasuerus, who ordered that all in the king's gate prostrate themselves before Haman in his newly exalted position. **Mordecai** staunchly refused to do so and gave as a reason that he was a Jew.
- After these things King Ahasuerus magnified Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite and proceeded to exalt him and to put his throne above all the other princes that were with him. (**Esther 3:1**)
- And all the king's servants that were in the king's gate were bowing low and prostrating themselves to Haman, for so the king had commanded respecting him. But as for **Mordecai**, he would neither bow low nor prostrate himself. (**Esther 3:2**)
- And the king's servants who were in the king's gate began to say to **Mordecai**; Why are you sidestepping the king's commandment? (**Esther 3:3**)
- And it came about that, as they talked to him day by day, and he

did not listen to them, then they told Haman to see whether **Mordecai's** affairs would stand, for he had told them that he was a Jew. (**Esther 3:4**)

- The fact that **Mordecai** based his action on this reason proves that it had to do with his relationship, as a dedicated Jew, to his God Yehowah. He recognized that prostrating himself before Haman involved more than falling down to the earth for an exalted personage, as Israelites had done in the past, merely acknowledging such a ones superior position as ruler.
- And the Tekoite woman proceeded to come in to the king and fall upon her face to the earth and prostrate herself and say; Do save, O king! (**2 Samuel 14:4**)
- Eventually Ahimaaz called and said to the king; It is well! With that he bowed to the king with his face to the earth. And he went on to say; Blessed be Yehowah your God, who has surrendered the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king! (**2 Samuel 18:28**)
- Then Bath-sheba bowed low and prostrated herself to the king, upon which the king said; What do you have to ask? (**1 Kings 1:16**)
- In Haman's case there was good reason why **Mordecai** did not bow. Haman was probably an Amalekite, and Yehowah had expressed himself as being at war with Amalek from generation to generation.
- Saying; Because a hand is against the throne of Yah, Yehowah will have war with Amalek from generation to generation. (**Exodus 17:16**)
- It was a matter of integrity to God and not a political issue on **Mordecai's** part.

### See Also HAMAN

- Haman was infuriated, particularly after he realized that **Mordecai** was a Jew. So great was his hatred that the enjoyment of all his power and privileges was spoiled as long as **Mordecai** sat at the gate and refused to bow before him.

- Not limiting his vindictiveness to **Mordecai** alone, Haman extracted a decree from the king for the destruction of all of **Mordecai's** people in the realm of Persia.
- Now Haman kept seeing that **Mordecai** was not bowing low and prostrating himself to him, and Haman became filled with rage. (**Esther 3:5**)
- But it was despicable in his eyes to lay hand upon **Mordecai** alone, for they had told him about **Mordecai's** people, and Haman began seeking to annihilate all the Jews who were in all the realm of Ahasuerus, **Mordecai's** people. (**Esther 3:6**)
- In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, someone cast Pur, that is, the Lot, before Haman from day to day and from month to month, to the twelfth, that is, the month Adar. (**Esther 3:7**)
- And Haman proceeded to say to King Ahasuerus; There is one certain people scattered and separated among the peoples in all the jurisdictional districts of your realm, and their laws are different from all other peoples, and the kings own laws they are not performing, and for the king it is not appropriate to let them alone. (**Esther 3:8**)
- If to the king it does seem good, let there be a writing that they be destroyed, and ten thousand silver talents I shall pay into the hands of those doing the work by bringing it into the kings treasury. (**Esther 3:9**)
- At that the king removed his signet ring from his own hand and gave it to Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the one showing hostility to the Jews. (**Esther 3:10**)
- And the king went on to say to Haman; The silver is given to you, also the people, to do with them according to what is good in your own eyes. (**Esther 3:11**)
- The kings secretaries were then called in the first month on the thirteenth day of it, and writing went on according to all that Haman commanded the kings satraps and the governor's who were over the different jurisdictional districts, and the princes of the different peoples, of each jurisdictional district, in its own style of writing, and each people in its own tongue, in the name

of King Ahasuerus it was written and it was sealed with the kings signet ring. (**Esther 3:12**)

### · Used In Delivering Israel

- In the face of the edict to destroy all the Jews in the empire, **Mordecai** expressed faith that Esther had been brought to her royal dignity at this very time for deliverance of the Jews.
- He showed Esther her weighty responsibility and directed her to implore the favor and help of the king. Although it jeopardized her own life, Esther agreed to follow through.
- Then **Mordecai** told him about all the things that had befallen him and the exact statement of the money that Haman had said to pay to the kings treasury against the Jews, to destroy them. (**Esther 4:7**)
- And it came about that, as soon as the king saw Esther the queen standing in the courtyard, she gained favor in his eyes, so that the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Esther now came near and touched the top of the scepter. (**Esther 5:2**)
- Most timely for **Mordecai** and the Jews, for it was on the very issue of **Mordecai's** loyalty to the king, King Ahasuerus attention was providentially directed, during a sleepless night, to the official book of records of the state.
- The king was thereby reminded of the fact that Mordecai had not been rewarded for his past service, that is, for uncovering the seditious plot of Bigthan and Teresh. At this the king desired to honor Mordecai grandly to the mortification of Haman, who was commanded to arrange and announce this honor publicly.
- During that night the kings sleep fled. Therefore he said to bring the book of the records of the affairs of the times. Thus there came to be a reading of them before the king. (**Esther 6:1**)
- At length there was found written what **Mordecai** had reported concerning Bigthana and Teresh, two court officials of the king, doorkeepers, who had sought to lay hand on King Ahasuerus. (**Esther 6:2**)

- Then the king said; What honor and great thing has been done to **Mordecai** for this? To this the kings attendants, his ministers, said; Nothing has been done with him. (**Esther 6:3**)
- Later the king said; Who is in the courtyard? Now Haman himself had come into the outer courtyard of the king's house to say to the king to hang **Mordecai** on the stake that he had prepared for him. (**Esther 6:4**)
- Accordingly the kings attendants said to him; Here is Haman standing in the courtyard. So the king said; Let him come in. (**Esther 6:5**)
- When Haman came in, the king proceeded to say to him; What is to be done to the man in whose honor the king himself has taken a delight? At this Haman said in his heart; To whom would the king take delight in rendering an honor more than me? (**Esther 6:6**)
- So Haman said to the king; As for the man in whose honor the king himself has taken a delight. (**Esther 6:7**)
- Let them bring royal apparel with which the king does clothe himself and a horse upon which the king does ride and on the head of which the royal headdress has been put. (**Esther 6:8**)
- And let there be a putting of the apparel and the horse into the charge of one of the kings noble princes, and they must clothe the man in whose honor the king himself has taken a delight, and they must make him ride on the horse in the public square of the city, and they must call out before him; This is how it is done to the man in whose honor the king himself has taken a delight. (**Esther 6:9**)
- At once the king said to Haman; Quickly, take the apparel and the horse, just as you have said; and do that way to **Mordecai** the Jew who is sitting in the kings gate. Do not let anything go unfulfilled of all that you have spoken. (**Esther 6:10**)
- And Haman proceeded to take the apparel and the horse and clothe **Mordecai** and make him ride in the public square of the city and call out before him; This is how it is done to the man in whose honor the king himself has taken a delight. (**Esther 6:11**)

- Afterward **Mordecai** returned to the king's gate. As for Haman, he hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered. (**Esther 6:12**)
- Esther succeeded in indicting Haman for gross misrepresentation and calumny of the Jews and for treacherous scheming against the king's own interests as well. The enraged Ahasuerus ordered the death sentence for Haman, and the 22 meters high (73 feet) stake Haman had erected for **Mordecai** was used to hang Haman's own body.
- Then the king and Haman came in to banquet with Esther the queen. (**Esther 7:1**)
- The king now said to Esther also on the second day during the banquet of wine; What is your petition, O Esther the queen? Let it even be given to you. And what is your request? To the half of the kingship, let it even be done! (**Esther 7:2**)
- At this Esther the queen answered and said; If I have found favor in your eyes, O king, and if to the king it does seem good, let there be given me my own soul at my petition and my people at my request. (**Esther 7:3**)
- For we have been sold, I and my people, to be annihilated, killed and destroyed. Now if we had been sold for mere men slaves and for mere maidservants, I should have kept silent. But the distress is not appropriate when with damage to the king. (**Esther 7:4**)
- King Ahasuerus now said, yes, he went on to say to Esther the queen; Who is this, and just where is the one who has emboldened himself to do that way? (**Esther 7:5**)
- Then Esther said; The man, the adversary and enemy, is this bad Haman. As for Haman, he became terrified because of the king and the queen. (**Esther 7:6**)
- As for the king, he rose up in his rage from the banquet of wine to go to the garden of the palace, and Haman himself stood up to make request for his soul from Esther the queen, for he saw that bad had been determined against him by the king. (**Esther 7:7**)
- And the king himself returned from the garden of the palace to the house of the wine banquet, and Haman was fallen upon the



- couch on which Esther was. Consequently the king said; Is there also to be a raping of the queen, with me in the house? The word itself went out of the kings mouth, and Haman's face they covered. (**Esther 7:8**)
- Harbona, one of the court officials before the king, now said; Also, there is the stake that Haman made for **Mordecai**, who had spoken good concerning the king, standing in Haman's house, fifty cubits high. At that the king said; You men, hang him on it. (**Esther 7:9**)
  - And they proceeded to hang Haman on the stake that he had prepared for **Mordecai**, and the kings rage itself subsided. (**Esther 7:10**)
  - **Mordecai** now replaced Haman as prime minister and received the kings own signet ring for sealing state documents. Esther placed Mordecai over the house of Haman, which the king had turned over to her.
  - Then **Mordecai** used the kings authorization to issue a counter decree giving the Jews the legal right to defend themselves. To the Jews it was a light of deliverance and joy. Many in the Persian Empire aligned themselves with the Jews, and when Adar 13, the day for the laws to take force, arrived, the Jews were prepared.
  - Officialdom stood behind them because of **Mordecai's** high position. In Shushan the fighting was extended for another day. More than 75,000 enemies of the Jews in the Persian Empire were destroyed, including the ten sons of Haman.
  - On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Esther the queen the house of Haman, the one showing hostility to the Jews, and **Mordecai** himself came in before the king, because Esther had told what he was to her. (**Esther 8:1**)
  - As for the Jews that were in Shushan, they congregated themselves on the thirteenth day of it and on the fourteenth day of it, and there was a rest on the fifteenth day of it, and there was a making of it a day of banqueting and of rejoicing. (**Esther 9:18**)
  - With Esther's confirmation **Mordecai** commanded the annual celebration of the festival of the 14th and 15th days of Adar, the days

of Purim, for rejoicing and banqueting and giving gifts to one another and to the poor.

- The Jews accepted and imposed the festival on their offspring and all those joining themselves to them. As second in the empire, Mordecai was respected by God's dedicated people the Jews and continued working for their welfare.
- That is why the country Jews, inhabiting the cities of the outlying districts, were making the fourteenth day of the month Adar a rejoicing and a banqueting and a good day and a sending of portions to one another. ([Esther 9:19](#))
- And **Mordecai** proceeded to write these things and send written documents to all the Jews that were in all the jurisdictional districts of King Ahasuerus, the nearby and the distant ones. ([Esther 9:20](#))
- To impose upon them the obligation to be regularly holding the fourteenth day of the month Adar and the fifteenth day of it in each and every year. ([Esther 9:21](#))
- According to the days on which the Jews had rested from their enemies and the month that was changed for them from grief to rejoicing and from mourning to a good day, to hold them as days of banqueting and rejoicing and sending of portions to one another and of gifts to the poor people. ([Esther 9:22](#))
- The Jews imposed and accepted upon themselves and upon their offspring and upon all those joining themselves to them, that it should not pass away, the obligation to be regularly holding these two days according to what was written concerning them and according to their appointed time in each and every year. ([Esther 9:27](#))
- And these days were to be remembered and held in each and every generation, each family, each jurisdictional district and each city, and these days of Purim themselves should not pass away from the midst of the Jews and the commemoration itself of them not come to an end among their offspring. ([Esther 9:28](#))
- And Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and **Mordecai** the Jew proceeded to write with all forcefulness to confirm this second letter concerning Purim. ([Esther 9:29](#))

- Then he sent written documents to all the Jews in the one hundred and twenty-seven jurisdictional districts, the realm of Ahasuerus, in words of peace and truth. ([Esther 9:30](#))
- To confirm these days of Purim at their appointed times, just as **Mordecai** the Jew and Esther the queen had imposed upon them, and just as they had imposed upon their own soul and upon their offspring, the matters of the fasts and their cry for aid. ([Esther 9:31](#))
- And the very saying of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim, and it was written down in a book. ([Esther 9:32](#))
- As for all his energetic work and his mightiness and the exact statement of **Mordecai's** greatness with which the king magnified him, are they not written in the Book of the affairs of the times of the kings of Media and Persia? ([Esther 10:2](#))
- For **Mordecai** the Jew was second to King Ahasuerus and was great among the Jews and approved by the multitude of his brothers, working for the good of his people and speaking peace to all their offspring. ([Esther 10:3](#))

## .. A Man Of Faith

- **Mordecai** was a man of faith like those spoken of by the apostle Paul at ([Hebrews Chapter 11](#)), though not mentioned there by name. He displayed courage, decisiveness, integrity, and loyalty to God and his people, and he followed the principle later expressed by Jesus; Pay back, therefore, Caesars things to Caesar, but God's things to God.
- They said; Caesar's. Then he said to them; Pay back, therefore, Caesar's things to Caesar, but God's things to God. ([Matthew 22:21](#))
- He and Esther were of the tribe of Benjamin, of whom the patriarch Jacob had prophesied; Benjamin will keep on tearing like a wolf. In the morning he will eat the animal seized and at evening he will divide spoil.
- Benjamin will keep on tearing like a wolf. In the morning he will eat the animal seized and at evening he will divide spoil. ([Genesis 49:27](#))

- The activity of these Benjamites was in the evening of the nation of Israel, after their kings were no longer on the throne and they had come under Gentile domination.
- It is possible that **Mordecai** and Esther had the privilege of destroying the last of the hated Amalekites. **Mordecai's** interest in the welfare of his countrymen indicates that he had faith that from among the children of Israel would come the Seed of Abraham to bless all families of the earth.
- And I shall make a great nation out of you and I shall bless you and I will make your name great, and prove yourself a blessing. (**Genesis 12:2**)
- And by means of your seed all nations of the earth will certainly bless themselves due to the fact that you have listened to my voice. (**Genesis 22:18**)