

## ~ESTHER (340)

(Es'ther)[*Hadassah*, myrtle]

- A Jewish orphan girl of the tribe of Benjamin whose Hebrew name was Hadassah, meaning Myrtle, a descendant from among those deported from Jerusalem along with King Jehoiachin or Jeconiah, in **617 B.C.E.**
- 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**)
- 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**)
- She was the daughter of Abihail, the uncle of Mordecai.
- And when the turn of **Esther** the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, whom he had taken as his daughter, arrived to come in to the king, she did not request anything except what Hegai the king's eunuch, the guardian of the women, proceeded to mention, all the while **Esther** was continually gaining favor in the eyes of everyone seeing her. (**Esther 2:15**)
- Her guardian was her older cousin Mordecai, one of the king's servants that were in the king's gate of the palace at Shushan during the reign of the Persian king Ahasuerus or Xerxes I, in the **Fifth Century B.C.E.**
- 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 all the kings servants that were in the kings 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)**
- **After Ahasuerus had deposed his queen Vashti for disobedience, he commanded the gathering of all the beautiful virgins for a period of special massage and beauty care, so that the king might select one to replace Vashti as queen.**
- **Esther** was among those taken to the king's house and entrusted to the care of Hegai the guardian of the women. At Mordecai's direction, she kept secret the fact that she was a Jewess.
- **And it came about that, when the kings 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)
- **Esther** had not told about her people or about her relatives, for Mordecai himself had laid the command upon her that she should not tell. (Esther 2:10)
- **Esther** was selected as queen in the seventh year of Ahasuerus reign.
- Then **Esther** was taken to King Ahasuerus at his royal house in the tenth month, that is, the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. (Esther 2:16)
- **And the king came to love Esther** more than all the other women, so that she gained more favor and loving-kindness before him than all the other virgins. And he proceeded to put the royal headdress upon her head and make her queen instead of Vashti. (Esther 2:17)
- **All along, she kept in touch with Mordecai, following his counsel. She spoke in Mordecai's name to the king when Mordecai uncovered a plot against the king.**
- **Esther** was not telling about her relatives and her people, just as Mordecai had laid the command upon her, and the saying of

Mordecai **Esther** was performing, just as when she happened to be under care by him. (**Esther 2:20**)

- 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**)
- In the 12th year of Ahasuerus, Haman the Agagite, who was prime minister, planned the annihilation of all the Jews in the 127 jurisdictional districts in the empire. He received authorization from the king to issue a decree to carry this out.
- 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**)

- And there was a sending of the letters by means of couriers to all the kings jurisdictional districts, to annihilate, to kill and to destroy all the Jews, young man as well as old man, little ones and women, on one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, and to plunder the spoil of them. (**Esther 3:13**)
- Acting on the information and advice of Mordecai, **Esther** revealed to the king the wicked intent of Haman's plot. Haman's reaction added to the king's rage, and Haman was hanged.
- 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 king's treasury against the Jews, to destroy them. (**Esther 4:7**)
- And they proceeded to hang Haman on the stake that he had prepared for Mordecai, and the king's rage itself subsided. (**Esther 7:10**)
- The king, at **Esther's** request, issued a second decree authorizing the Jews to fight for their lives on the day set for their slaughter.
- Moreover, **Esther** spoke again before the king and fell down before his feet and wept and implored favor of him to turn away the badness of Haman the Agagite and his scheme that he had schemed against the Jews. (**Esther 8:3**)
- Then the king held the golden scepter out to **Esther**, at which **Esther** rose and stood before the king. (**Esther 8:4**)
- She now said; If to the king it does seem good, and if I have found favor before him and the thing is proper before the king and I am good in his eyes, let it be written to undo the written documents, the scheme of Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews that are in all the king's jurisdictional districts. (**Esther 8:5**)
- For how can I bear it when I must look upon the calamity that will find my people, and how can I bear it when I must look upon the destruction of my relatives? (**Esther 8:6**)

- So King Ahasuerus said to **Esther** the queen and to Mordecai the Jew; Look! The house of Haman I have given to Esther, and him they have hanged on the stake, for the reason that he thrust out his hand against the Jews. (**Esther 8:7**)
- And you yourselves write in behalf of the Jews according to what is good in your own eyes in the king's name and seal it with the king's signet ring, for a writing that is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring it is not possible to undo. (**Esther 8:8**)
- Accordingly the secretaries of the king were called at that time in the third month, that is, the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day of it, and writing went on according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews and to the satraps and the governor's and the princes of the jurisdictional districts that were from India to Ethiopia, a hundred and twenty-seven jurisdictional districts, to each jurisdictional district in its own style of writing and to each people in its own tongue, and to the Jews in their own style of writing and in their own tongue. (**Esther 8:9**)
- And he proceeded to write in the name of King Ahasuerus and do the sealing with the king's signet ring and send written documents by the hand of the couriers on horses, riding post horses used in the royal service, sons of speedy mares. (**Esther 8:10**)
- That the king granted to the Jews that were in all the different cities to congregate themselves and stand for their souls, to annihilate and kill and destroy all the force of the people and jurisdictional district that were showing hostility to them, little ones and women, and to plunder their spoil. (**Esther 8:11**)
- On the one day in all the jurisdictional districts of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar. (**Esther 8:12**)
- A copy of the writing was to be given as Law throughout all the different jurisdictional districts, published to all the peoples, that the Jews should become ready for this day to avenge themselves upon their enemies. (**Esther 8:13**)
- The couriers themselves, riding post horses used in the royal service, went forth, being urged forward and being moved with

speed by the king's word, and the Law itself was given out in Shushan the castle. ([Esther 8:14](#))

- Because of the king's edict and for fear of Mordecai, who replaced Haman as prime minister, the governor's and officials of the empire helped the Jews to gain a complete victory over their enemies. ([Esther Chapter 9](#))

- Mordecai's instructions, confirmed by **Esther**, commanded the Jews to celebrate the Festival of Purim annually, a custom kept down to this day.

- 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](#))

- 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](#))

- While the book of **Esther** does not mention the name of God, it is evident from the actions of Mordecai and **Esther** that they were both faithful servants of the true God Yehowah. **Esther** displayed the qualities of one trusting in God's Law. She was pretty in form and beautiful in appearance

- 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](#))

- But more important is the fact that she manifested the adornment of the secret person of the heart in the incorruptible apparel of the quiet and mild spirit.

- But let it be the secret person of the heart in the incorruptible apparel of the quiet and mild spirit, which is of great value in the eyes of God. ([1 Peter 3:4](#))

- **Thus she gained favor before Hegai, the guardian of the women, as well as before the king himself. She did not count showy adornment the important thing and, accordingly, did not request anything except what Hegai proceeded to mention.**

- **And when the turn of **Esther** the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, whom he had taken as his daughter, arrived to come in to the king, she did not request anything except what Hegai the king's eunuch, the guardian of the women, proceeded to mention all the while **Esther** was continually gaining favor in the eyes of everyone seeing her. (**Esther 2:15**)**

- **She showed great tact and self-control. She was submissive to her husband Ahasuerus, approaching him in a tactful and respectful way when her life and the lives of her people were in danger. She kept silent when it was wise to do so but spoke boldly and fearlessly when it was necessary and at the right time.**

- ****Esther** had not told about her people or about her relatives, for Mordecai himself had laid the command upon her that she should not tell. (**Esther 2:10**)**

- **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**)**

- **She accepted counsel from her mature cousin Mordecai, even when following it endangered her life.**

- **And they proceeded to tell Mordecai the words of **Esther**. (**Esther 4:12**)**
- **Then Mordecai said to reply to **Esther**; Do not imagine within your own soul that the king's household will escape any more than all the other Jews. (**Esther 4:13**)**
- **For if you are altogether silent at this time, relief and deliverance themselves will stand up for the Jews from another place, but as for you and your father's house, you people will perish. And who is there knowing whether it is for a time like this that you have attained to royal dignity? (**Esther 4:14**)**
- **Accordingly **Esther** said to reply to Mordecai. (**Esther 4:15**)**
- **Go, gather all the Jews that are to be found in Shushan and fast in my behalf and neither eat nor drink for three days, night and day. I too with my young women, I shall fast likewise, and upon that I shall come in to the king, which is not according to the law, and in case I must perish, I must perish. (**Esther 4:16**)**
- **Her love and loyalty toward her people the Jews, who were also God's covenant people, were demonstrated when she acted in their behalf.**

**See Also MORDECAI 2**