

## Lesson 6 – Esther 5-10

Text: Esther 5-10

Main Characters: God, Ahasuerus, Mordecai, Esther, Haman

Key Passages:

- Esther 6:13 – Haman’s wife knew that if Mordecai was Jewish, Haman would not prevail.
- Esther 9:26-28 – The feast of Purim was established to remember what had happened.

Main Storyline:

After fasting for three days, Esther put on her royal clothes and went to the inner court of the king’s palace. Ahasuerus, the king, saw Esther standing in the court and held out to her his golden scepter, showing her that he was allowing her to approach and speak with him freely. Esther approached the king and touched the top of the scepter. Ahasuerus asked Esther what she wanted, and Esther replied that she wanted Ahasuerus and Haman to attend a special banquet that day. The king agreed and called for Haman to come immediately. At the banquet, the king asked Esther again what she wanted. Esther asked the king and Haman to come to another banquet the next day, and there she would tell the king what she truly wanted. The king agreed, and they each went their ways.

Haman went out with a joyful heart, but when he saw Mordecai, he immediately became angry and upset. When he got home, he called for his friends and wife, Zeresh, and bragged to them about all that he had and how he was going to attend a special banquet with the king and queen. However, he said, his riches meant nothing to him because seeing Mordecai made him so angry. His wife and friends suggested that he build a gallows and ask the king that Mordecai be hanged on it. He agreed to do so.

That night, Ahasuerus could not sleep, so he asked for the book of chronicles to be read to him. When it was read about how Mordecai had saved him, he asked if anything had been done, and he was told that nothing had been done for him. At that time, Haman arrived in the king’s palace, after building the gallows, in order to suggest that Mordecai be hanged. The king decided to ask Haman for his opinion regarding what should be done for a man whom the king would like to honor. Thinking that Ahasuerus was wishing to honor him, Haman made many suggestions. The king agreed with Haman and told him to do everything he had suggested for Mordecai. Haman obeyed, but then went home upset. His wife suggested that if Mordecai was of Jewish descent, he would eventually fall before him. While they were talking, the king’s servants came for Mordecai to bring him to the queen’s banquet.

At the banquet, the king once again asked Esther about her request. Esther explained that someone was planning to destroy her people and that they needed the king’s help. Ahasuerus became angry and asked who it was that dared to do such. Esther exclaimed that Haman was responsible. Haman was terrified, and the king left the table in a rage. Haman begged Esther to spare him. When Ahasuerus returned, he saw Haman and thought he was attacking Esther. One of the king’s servants pointed out the gallows at Haman’s house, and Ahasuerus commanded for Haman to be hanged on it.

That day, Ahasuerus gave Mordecai his signet ring. Ahasuerus reminded Esther and Mordecai that Haman’s decree could not be revoked, but that they could write any decree for their own people. Mordecai wrote a decree which permitted the Jews to defend themselves. When the day came for the Jews to be killed, they banded together and defended themselves successfully. In remembrance of this time, the Jews established a feast, Purim, which was to be celebrated every year.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) God is involved in our lives whether we see Him clearly working or not.
- 2.) We must remember what God has done for us; it will be an enormous bolster to our faith.