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The Book of Esther

Throughout the book of Esther, the three main characters, Mordechai, Haman and Esther, had their own individual growth throughout the book. To begin with, Mordachai's character is seen as a loyal and persistent man. It is first shown when he is a father figure to Esther. He raised her to be a compassionate and loving woman who was a follower of God all on his own. We also see his father figure when he tells Esther to not tell anyone of her Jewish background, which proves his need to protect her just as any father would. As we see in Esther 4:11-14, Esther was resistant when the time came for her to go to the palace to confront the King and risk her position as his wife to save the Jewish people, but Mordechai was persistent enough to convince her to do this for her people.

In the book of Esther, Haman, who is considered the "evil" man in the story, is known to be manipulative, shown in his actions with the king. Mordachai's decision to not bow to Haman (Esther 3:5), led him to make the executive decision to begin a Jewish genocide by manipulating the king once again. He is also seen to be full of pride. This characteristic is shown during the first banquet with Esther and the king. Haman's pride was challenged when Mordechai refused to bow to him which of course led him to make some drastic actions against Mordechai's people.

Esther is characterized by her bravery and faith in God. When she needed to speak to the king, she sent a message to Mordechai beforehand to have her people fast for three days. Esther took that leap of faith and showed extreme courage and confidence that God would provide his mercy and wisdom to the king. Her bravery came in when she knew that taking this action would lay out the possibility that may have cost her own life. We also see her faith in her prayer to God, when she asks the God, "Put in my mouth persuasive words in the presence of the king, and turn his heart to hatred for our enemy, so that he and his co-conspirators may perish." (Esther 4:13) Her prayer was one that showed that she knew she alone would not be able to convince the King. She asked the Lord to provide what she could not, both for her and the King.

The hero of the story was Mordechai. He was the mentor that convinced Esther to take those courageous actions with the king. If it were not for his persuasiveness, then Esther would've most likely not have confronted the king. To add on, the name Esther came about because of Mordechai, the mentor and father-figure to Esther; just to keep her identity a secret and to protect her. If it were not for his guidance, then Haman would have eventually found his way to greater power with the king. Mordechai's inspiration began the moment he refused to bow down to Haman, and his instruction to Esther is what began the downfall of Haman. God's works in this narrative is shown throughout every unexpected decision the king made. The book of Esther shows how God worked in the lives of Esther, Mordechai and the king, to save the Jewish people from genocide, and to bring the downfall to the Agagite ruler.