

The book of Esther is a story about the rise of two Jews. Mordecai and Esther, and about the changes they made during the days of Ahasuerus. The content of their character as well as those who stood against them were well shown in the Old Testament book. Resilience is shown, as well as a trust in the Lord that themselves and their people would be delivered from evil.

Mordecai, one of the main characters in the book of Esther, is a man of faith and a man that loves his family. He took in the daughter of his uncle and raised her as his own. While Esther was in the palace being groomed as a potential wife for the king, he waited outside the building every night, concerned about her safety. Later on, Mordecai learns of a plot to kill the king. He gives his warning and doesn't expect or ask for any reward for what he did. This shows the type of loving caring person that he was. Once Mordecai found out what was being planned by Haman for the Jews, he went to Esther and gave her a warning. Once Mordecai made his rise through the ranks to the side of the king, he sent out the decree that stated that the Jews were encouraged to defend themselves against any that would do them harm. Mordecai was always looking after those that he loved including his people.

Esther, who was raised by Mordecai, was a woman of great faith and respect. She was very obedient to Mordecai for everything that he had done for her in taking her in. It's also shown in her faith to the Lord and the love of her people how she was willing to sacrifice herself by going to the king without being called. She was doing this to prevent the slaughter of her people at risk to her own life. It also shows again the love, trust and respect that she has for Mordecai in trusting his word and warning. She was an intelligent woman as well with coming up with the plan to have her, the king and Haman go to dinner together with nobody else allowed. This way she could out Haman for what he has done. Her plan showed again the love she had for her people, in willing to work so hard to ensure their protection.

Haman, whom I consider to be the villain of this story, was promoted above all the other princes to the side of the king. He was a vengeful, prideful man who was angry that Mordecai refused to fear or bow down to him. This is where he begins to plan his own downfall by trying to go against Mordecai for his own prideful reasons. He goes and tricks the king into having a decree written that says on a specific day, the people of the kingdom were to destroy the Jews. He hated them because they did not follow the king's laws and instead followed the laws of God. Later on in the story, Haman was asked by the king what he thought he should do for someone he wished to honor. In his arrogance, he assumes it's himself and tells the king what he would have done. Once he finds out that it is what is to be done for Mordecai for

saving the king's life years ago, he follows the king's orders and goes home distraught that the king would hold someone in higher regard than himself. After this, at the banquet that is planned by Esther for them, he is outed about his plan and realizing the queen was also a Jew, he pleaded to her for his life and forgiveness. He had already earned the king's wrath at this point and was put to death in the same manner that he had planned for Mordechai.

If asked who the hero in this story is, I would have to say that it is Esther. It was her direct actions and her willingness to put her life on the line for her people that were the tipping points in convincing the king on stopping what was going on. She was willing to trust in the man that raised her to do the right thing and have faith that the Lord was going to see her through. The Lord's presence was seen throughout many sections here. In the king raising his scepter to Esther and in Mordechai learning of the plot to kill the King. The protection of His people is clear throughout the story of Esther where the Lord worked through those that love him and kept them safe.

The story of Esther is a story of faith and trust in one another as well as in the Lord to carry those of faith through difficult times. His protection of his people from those people of prideful self-centered arrogance like Haman is something that can easily be ascertained through reading. It also goes to show that the measure of a person's character is important in how one lives their life.