

## Esther

The narrative in the book of Esther presents us with three main characters—Mordecai, Esther, and Haman. It is a story of evil, mystery, and deliverance. Mordechai was the protagonist of this story with Esther. He was of the tribe of Benjamin. He is the son or descendant of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish. He was a Jew who returned from Babylon with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:2). He brought up Esther, his uncle's daughter, and adopted her as his daughter after her parents' death. This action demonstrates the loving kindness of this man. According to Dr. Herbert Lockyer, quoting Matthew Henry's apocryphal chapters of Esther in his book, "All the Men of the Bible", Mordechai's prayer stated. Thou knowest, Lord that it was neither in contempt nor pride, nor for any desire of glory, that I did not bow down to Haman, for I could of have been content with good will for the salvation of Israel to kiss the soles of his feet, but I did this that I might not prefer the glory of man above the glory of God, neither will I worship any but Thee(246). Mordecai was a faithful and loyal servant who once helped to crush a plot on the king's life (Esther 2:21-23). Mordecai was a God-fearing man; he was a man who believed in the power of prayer. In this story, he seems to always be in the right place at the right time. His knowledge of the plot to destroy his people caused a divine reaction on his part. He sent a message to Esther, asking her to please intervene. The situation is complicated, and not plenty of time, "for if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come into the Kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14). This has remained a fascinating statement of the entire book of Esther.

Esther obeyed her father, asked her people to pray, and reassured her dad that she would do her best. On the second day of the feast in the palace, Esther got herself ready, dressed in her royal robes, stood in the court, and got the king's attention. She immediately found favor in his sight. And even if it was not her time to see him, he held out the golden scepter and accepted her. He asked her what her wish was. Do you have any concerns? She requested the king to have Haman join them. The request was granted. They went to the banquet together. At the banquet, the king asked Esther about her petition. Esther said;" If I found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, then let the King and Haman come to the banquet which I prepare for them, and tomorrow, I will do as the king has said." (Esther 5:7) This is the moment of temperature rising, this is suspense delayed, the plot is thickening here, the great day came, and the characters entered the banquet hall. The king turned to Haman and asked him; "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor? He replied! "let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest place on its head. Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man, whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him; 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the King delights to honor.'

Here the story took on a solemn atmosphere to the Antagonist of the story, as stated in the king's words to Haman. Hurry, take the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordechai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall be done to the man whom the King delights to honor!"

Haman obeyed the king's orders. He did not have a choice. He realized for one moment that his plot and his life's aspiration was dashed away. Haman went home and told his wife what had happened. She gave him some good advice for once." If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him." While they were talking, the eunuchs came for Haman to take him to the banquet (Esther 6:13-14). At the banquet, the king asked Esther about her request. He said, what is your petition? It shall be granted. The queen answered and said, "If I found favor in your sight O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at thy request. "For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss." The king asked who is he and where is he. The queen replied; the adversary and enemy are this wicked Haman. Haman became terrified. The king got up and went to the garden. Haman stood before the queen begging for his life. The king returned and saw Haman lying across the couch where the queen was. The king got angry and accused Haman of wanting to assault the queen. He was ordered to be executed on the very gallows he built for Haman and maybe many other Jewish men.

This is a story of the Divine process in the history of humankind. This is how God will always protect His people when we are in His will. God was with Mordecai all through his life here. His choice in taking care of Esther after she became an orphan, having established a right and genuine relationship with her, showing the loving obedience of a daughter, learned about the power of prayer from home. She did not allow her promotion to get in the way of her new found fame, and she handled her situation with class and grace. Haman had harbored cultural

biases all his life toward the Jewish people. In the end, it cost him his life, Mordecai life Joseph  
God sees your good deeds, and he will reward at the right time. I hope Queen Vashti was not  
executed in the end. Here, the decision was used for God's e glory. Esther was in the palace for  
such a time as this.