

Kaila Quick

David Emanuel

Old Testament Literature

November 6, 2019

The Book of Esther and The Heroes Mordecai & Esther

The Book of Esther is a story based around four central characters, King Ahasuerus, Esther, Haman, and Mordecai. These characters all play a role but the last three are the most important, you have the aid to the hero, the enemy, and the hero. The Book of Esther tells the story of the salvation of the Jews in Persia. All the way from the first decree to destroy the Jewish people to the decree to let the Jewish people become their own salvation. Oddly enough God is not mentioned at any point throughout this book, this is one of only two books in which God is not mentioned, the other being Solomon. This story starts off with the drunken fits of the King, in which he gets upset by his wife and wishes to find a new Queen to rule by his side which is how he discovers Esther.

Esther is a Jew from the same bloodline of Mordecai, "... Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai,..."", but she doesn't inform the King of that fact at least not yet. Esther reveals her kindred in Esther 7:4 when she reveals to the King, Haman's plan to destroy the Jews. Now this ultimately leads to Haman being hung on the gallows of which he had prepared for Mordecai so many may say that this makes Esther the hero of the story for getting rid of the villain, but she didn't do it alone so I feel like you can easily say that there are two heroes's to this story. Esther and Mordecai both have a large impact on this story.

After Esther had been raised to Queen, Mordecai was sitting outside the King's gate and overheard two guards talking about killing King Ahasuerus, Esther 2:21-22. This, however, wasn't honored for Mordecai, in fact, Haman was raised up before he. Haman found out that Mordecai was a Jew and Haman immediately wished death upon Mordecai and his people. This occurred because Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman. Mordecai informed Esther of Haman's plan and told Esther, "...Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews.". This is what ultimately led to Esther telling the King that she is Jewish. After Haman had been hung Mordecai wrote the decree that allowed the Jews to defend themselves and defeat their enemies, Esther 8:9-11. This is why I believe that both Mordecai and Esther are the heroes, they both have an impact that leads to the Salvation of the Jews.

Haman strikes me as the character who swoops in and steals the things that someone else earned and uses the power he gains from it to destroy the person he took it from. Which is very accurate if you read the Book of Esther because Haman swoops in after Mordecai saves the King and Haman gets promoted before Mordecai and then he wants to destroy the Jewish people because of his disdain for Mordecai. This ultimately leads to his unraveling when Esther and Mordecai save the Jewish people by getting Haman hung for his crimes against the people.

It is hard to notice God's work in Esther because He is never mentioned but that also means that it is up to the reader to interpret God's work that is done. Esther 4:13 is a good example of God's work because Mordecai is telling Esther that she too is in danger, so she needs to act and stop waiting for someone else to, I feel like this is part of God because he is trying to get the Jews to save themselves through his presence. Another good example is Esther 4:16

Quick 3

where Esther says "... and if I perish, I perish.", she is unafraid of what lies ahead of her because she knows she is doing something that is ultimately for the greater good of her people. This part reminds me a lot of the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross to rid his people of sin, he was unafraid of death because he was doing it to save his people.