

## Written Assignment 4

In the book of Esther there are three main characters who all show different characteristics and serve different purposes throughout the story. Haman shows more of envious and hateful qualities, while Mordecai and Esther show more loyal and faithful qualities. There are also several ways that we can see God working throughout the story.

The character Haman in the book of Esther is hateful and despises Mordecai. In the third chapter, Haman is out to destroy all the Jews, since he has convinced King Xerxes that all Jews were bad and did not obey him. The reason for Haman to be this way is because he noticed that Mordecai would not bow down towards the king and obey his orders. Haman has now begin the destruction of the jews. In the fifth chapter, Haman is very boastful about himself, bragging to his wife, Zeresh, and friends about how much the king favors him out of all the rest of his nobles and officials. The fifth chapter ends with Haman having the plan to pole Mordecai. In chapter 6, Haman's plan has failed miserably and he is embarrassed that Mordecai is starting to be more recognized by the king. In Chapter 7, Haman is impaled on a pole, since the king had found out about his destruction of the jews in the city. Overall, we notice that Haman is untrustworthy, envious and cruel. Being the character that Haman was, he has gotten what he deserved.

Mordecai is Esther's cousin, who he has taken care of since Esther's mother and father has passed away. Mordecai is a jew in the story, and in the beginning of the third chapter, he does not bow down to King Xerxes, nor does he obey the king's orders. Mordecai realizes that because he did not obey the king's orders, all of the jews in the city will pay the price for it and will die. Mordecai tries his best to convince Esther to talk to King Xerxes to see if he could stop the mass killing of the jews, and Esther refuses to at first, but then tells Mordecai that if he fasts

for three days then she will talk to the king. In chapter 6, Mordecai is honored for saving King Xerxes's life and he is robed, and rides around the city on a horse that the king has ridden.

Overall, Mordecai seems to be loyal to the people who are like him, since he has fought for the jews to be rescued from the killing of the jews. Throughout the story, Mordecai is a good person with good intentions and wants equality and justice amongst people who are like him.

It is no secret that Esther is a beautiful woman by the way she is described in the book, and she is also a jew. Esther is crowned the new queen and replaces the current queen, queen Vashti because she did not obey the king's orders. In the second chapter, we also notice that she seems to be obedient and loyal of Mordecai's rules, since Esther does not say anything about her nationality or her family background. In the fourth chapter, we see that Mordecai is trying to convince Esther to talk to King Xerxes to see if she could convince him to stop the killing of the jews. Esther replies to Mordecai that she will be put to death if she does that. After Mordecai pleas and begs Esther, she finally tells Mordecai that they will both fast for three days and she will then talk to the king, knowing that she has a possibility of being perished by the king. In the fifth chapter, Esther is preparing a banquet for the king, Haman, and his nobles where she will ask the king the question to stop the destruction of the jews. In the seventh chapter, Esther has finally asked the king her question about saving her people. The king has granted her request and has stopped the killing of the jews. Esther is loyal to people who are like her as well, since we saw that she has put her life in jeopardy to save the jews. There was a possibility that she would've been perished by the king, but she went ahead and took that chance.

There are several ways that we can see God working throughout the story. God is powerful, loving and forgiving. We can see that both Mordecai and Esther are loyal towards one

another and to people who are like them as well. They helped a city and have given justice to all the jews. God is like this as well, because he is always beside us, even in the darkest of times.

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13). Esther was willing to lay down her life for her people. She did not know whether King Xerxes would grant her, her question and she knew there was a possibility she would be perished. We also see God is working in the last chapter. King Xerxes works for the good of his people who obey him, and obeying our God is the same way. God will continue to work for us throughout our lives, if we live by His word and we do not disobey Him. I believe that the ultimate hero in the story is Mordecai, because he seemed to be the most faithful to his people. He noticed that the killing of the jews was wrong and horrific, and without his plan to stop the killing of the jews, it would’ve continued to occur.