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Old Testament: Assignment 4

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The book of Esther is about Jewish woman who was made queen. Raised by her cousin, Esther was chosen to be the queen of the Persian. She would later save the Jewish people from destruction despite the many obstacles that was in her way.

Esther was a Jewish woman who was raised by her cousin. She was one the young and beautiful women that was taken up to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. King Xerxes was amazed by Esther and saw something special in her, he made her queen after letting Vashti, her prior queen go. Esther would later save her people from complete destruction. When Esther learned of Haman's plan to kill the Jews, she was reluctant about approaching the kings to ask him for mercy in regard to her people. But when Mordachai reminded her of her of whom she was, she decided to go to the king and beg for her people's life. Prior going to the king, Esther and her people fast for 3 days and when it was time to approach the king, she prepared a banquet for the king and Haman where she will put forth her request.

Mordachai, the son of Jai was the cousin of Esther. He took Esther and raised her as her daughter when her mother and father passed away. Mordachai encouraged Esther to go to the citadel of Susa so she can be one of the king's beautiful young women. Mordachai told Esther not to tell king Xerxes about her Jewish heritage. Mordachai was appointed by the king as one of the guard who sat at the gate. One day, he overheard two of the king's guards plotting to kill the kings, he told Queen Esther about it and she made Xerxes aware of the assassination and Mordachai was rewarded for his faithfulness.

Haman had a plan to kill of the Jews and when Mordachai found out, he went to queen Esther so she can go and plead to the king to let her people life. Mordachai was later appointed by the king to the highest rank and was given the king's ring.

Haman was the antagonist in the book of Esther. He was the son of Hammedatha and married to Zeresh. Haman was close and personal advisor to king Xerxes. He had a higher position than all of the kings Nobles and the king would ask all of the advisors to kneel down and paid honor to Haman but Mordachai, a Jew would not kneel down. Haman took it personally when Mordachai refused to kneel and pay him honor; he made his mission to not only destroy Mordachai but all of the Jews throughout the whole kingdom. In Esther 3:8 Haman went to king Xerxes and said "There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them." On the 13th day of the 12th month, the month of Adar, Haman used the king's ring to sign an order that would destroy and annihilate all of the Jews in the kingdom.

Both Esther and Mordachai play an important role in the saving the Jews from total destruction. I think both of them should be seen as the hero of the book. Mordachai was the first to initiate a plan when he found out that Haman was wanted to destroy his people. I don't think that without Mordachai taking the risk to go to the king's palace and told Esther about Haman's plot she would that about it. And also when Esther was afraid of approaching the king, if Mordachai didn't insist in her going and plead for her people she probably wouldn't have approach the king. Esther can be seen as a hero too because she was willing to sacrifice herself for her people, in Esther 4: 16 "Go, gather together all

the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day.

I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”