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Old Testament

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The Book of Esther

The book of Esther is based on a story where the main character named Esther was once an orphan and reigns as Queen of Persia. Thus, the story continues on where the antagonist, Haman has a vendetta towards Mordecai, Esther's uncle, this cause Haman to scheme a plan to kill Mordecai and to cast away the Jewish people. Haman convinces the King of Persia to create a new law against the Jewish people. (3: 8-9) Esther receives this news and hears a plea from Mordecai's to use her influence to help save the Jews from Haman's plot. However her response to Mordecai is fearful and reluctant. (4:11). The book of Esther is oftentimes misconceived and is told that Esther is the heroine of the story. This is apparent because the book is named after her. But, when reading the story Esther and examining the story thoroughly she isn't the character who's naturally heroic. It's Mordecai who saves the day.

Esther grew up as an orphan in a foreign land. (2:5) Automatically, Esther feels like an outcast in search of a home. She is taken in by Mordecai. Although Esther views herself as estranged, her legacy of being royal is not new. (2:5) As Esther continues her journey and becomes the Queen of Persia. She finally feels somewhat at home. However, she has hidden who she is to the king. (2:10) When she is delivered news from Mordecai about what will happen to her people and she responds with reluctance and fear to save them. She says, "All the king's

servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come into the king for thirty days" (4:11). She uses that excuse as a pass to not have to find the means to direct the king. As a result, Mordecai replies to her and says, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13,14). Mordecai convicts Esther into doing the diligences of convincing the king to not pass the law. However, she is not the hero of the story.

Haman is wicked and vindictive throughout the book of Esther. He is a man of wealth and uses that esteem as a way to be arrogant and boastful. (5:11) He uses his influences and whispers in the ear of Ahasuerus (the King) and provides malicious counsel. (3:8) Before this Haman malicious intent was vocalized, there weren't any real problems between the Persians and the Jews for worshipping a different God and celebrating different customs. Haman creates tension due to his quarrel with Mordecai. (3: 5-6) Since King Ahasuerus agreed to create a new law, (3:12) After writing down the new law with the king, Haman is in high spirits. (5:9) He attends a banquet and has an idea to construct a tool to kill Mordecai. (5:14) In the book of Esther, Haman is asked by the king what he would do to show appreciation to someone who hasn't been shown thanksgiving. (6:3) He responds and says, "If the king wishes to honor someone, he should bring out one of the king's own royal robes, as well as a horse that the king himself has ridden—one with a royal emblem on its head. Let the robes and the horse be handed

over to one of the king's most noble officials. And let him see that the man whom the king wishes to honor is dressed in the king's robes and led through the city square on the king's horse. Have the official shout as they go, 'This is what the king does for someone he wishes to honor!' (6:7-9) Out of arrogance, Haman was crushed to know that it was Mordecai the king was referring to and then after news broke out that he plotted Mordecai's death, he was ordered to die by the king. (6: 10, 7:6-7) Haman died as an arrogant, prideful and wicked human being.

Mordecai is the true hero in the book of Esther. First, Mordecai takes in the Queen of Persia, Esther as his own. (2:5) He continues to show his heroism by mapping out a plan to save the Jewish people and Esther. Mordecai's intelligence may not have been recognized immediately in the first chapters of Esther but it will show when he masterminds a plan for Esther. He knew what to do when handling situations involving the king. Moreover, the guides Esther not to reveal her Jewish heritage at first. He tells her to be patient until after she shared Haman's plan to kill the Jews with King Ahasuerus to show her Jewish heritage and make her plea more meaningful to influence the king (Esther 2:10; 8:3). Mordecai was smart to discern that the information of the plot would be more appreciative of Esther to the king. After seeing, Mordecai's weeping and wailing and sack-cloth wearing and cajoling provide that, she decides to help anyway. Mordecai is noble, intelligent and brave; he is the true hero.

The book of Esther showed what a Radical Christian for Christ should be like. There shouldn't be any fear of doing what is right, even if there are those who advise to not do it. Also, it showed that God has everything planned out and he is faithful to his people. He will protect his

people with his wings just like a bird will do for its offspring. The book of Esther demonstrates faith.