

Tamara Nunez

Dr. Emanuel

Old Testament BIB102 NO

October 29th 2019

The Story of Queen Esther.

The Book of Esther tells Queen Esther's story and how she came to her position of power. Esther was not any ordinary queen she was not born into royalty, her story was a little more complex than that. You see Esther was born as a Jew and because of the persecution of Jews during this time Esther tried to keep her true identity a secret. She was under the custody of her cousin Mordecai and he took care of her as if she was his own. Mordecai was a strong believer in his faith and refused to bow down to this man named Haman and because of this he becomes infuriated and this results in the persecution of the Jews. Let's take this back a bit and I'll give you the break down and some background to this story and the characters.

Esther is the leading character in this book one could also say she can be considered the heroine of the story. Her Jewish name was Hadassah, she was a Jewish woman who is living in exile from her homeland and resided in Persia. While living in Persia, King Ahasuerus also referred to as King Xerxes, was in search of a new wife. He was looking for young virgins in the palace complex of Susa and Harem , and which ever woman pleased the king the most would become the new queen. Mordecai and Esther lived in the palace complex of Susa and as soon as word spread about this need for a new queen Mordecai suggested Hadassah (Esther) as an option because this would benefit her because she would have someone taking care of her and she would be living lavish. The king was pleased with Esther and chose her to become his queen.

Esther had to hide her family and racial background because Mordecai had told her to. Esther had always been obedient and so when it came to this it was no issue for her. Esther was also a strong faithful woman she helped protect her people in a time of need. This can be seen through Mordecai's part of the story. Further along Esther ends up standing up for her people and confessing to her true identity in order to save her people. She was risking it all just to make sure that her people did not have to keep dying.

Now let's talk more about this idea of the persecution of the Jews. You may ask why were these Jews being persecuted was it just because the King did not like them? Did he have a prejudiced view about them? Etc. Well this came about because of the King's high official named Haman. Haman was a pridefully wicked and petty man. There was a banquet and at this banquet Mordecai had alerted the king about something tragic and he was recognized and awarded. Haman became furious because he only appreciated when the King would acknowledge his achievements, he was jealous. Mordecai and Haman had encountered each other almost every day at the King's Gate and Haman would command all the King's servants almost every day to bow down to him. Obviously any person of faith would refuse to do this action because they only bow to their own God. Because of Mordecai's disobedience Haman basically started a Jewish genocide. Haman was determined to eliminate a whole race of people because one person would not bow down to him.

Mordecai was quite similar to Esther in the sense that he was a faithful/pious and a strong man. After Esther had become Queen the King held this banquet to celebrate this new milestone and to honor his new wife. Mordecai was invited to this feast and as he was sitting at the King's gate he heard two of the King's eunuchs who were plotting against him. Mordecai alerted the

King as soon as he heard and was praised and rewarded for his good deed. Mordecai can also be considered strong because when Haman commanded this genocide Mordecai was just concerned on saving his people. He pleaded to Esther for help because now since she had this power she could influence her husband to stop this horrific act. I think that this also makes Mordecai selfless because he is not living in this state of well if I am going to die then everyone should die too. He is willing to put his life on the line for this.

In the end Esther and Mordecai's people were saved, God saved them. Some would say that Esther was the hero of this book and to an extent that is true. I believe that God used Esther as a vessel and provided her with the wisdom and resources to be able to save the Jews. You can see God through the King's grace, when he finds out that Esther was a Jew instead of punishing her for lying since he loves her so much her life and the lives of her people were saved. God was looking down on Esther and her people and he blessed them and saved them from this persecution. Esther is a very strong and obedient young woman and is personally a role model for me.