

DAY 5 — ESTHER: Saving Her Community

Against all odds, she was here. Esther, secretly a Jew, was queen of Persia. But now everything was in jeopardy — she was being asked to risk everything, even her own life, to intercede for her people. Why would God raise her up only to destroy her?

When King Xerxes issued a decree that all beautiful young virgins from across the empire be brought to him so that he might choose a new queen, Esther was among them. She didn't tell anyone her nationality and family background because her uncle and adopted father Mordecai had told her not to — her life could be in danger.

She must have been scared, but she went, won the favor of the king and became queen of Persia. God placed Esther in the palace at just the right time. Haman, the most powerful official in the empire, had a vendetta against Mordecai. He tricked the king into signing a decree to destroy all the Jews in the kingdom.

Mordecai encouraged Esther to use her position: “Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?” (4:14b). Esther could have saved herself, since no one knew she was a Jew, but she risked her life for her people. She bravely approached the king, cleverly exposed Haman's plot and saved her people.

Esther could have safely lived her life “under the radar.” But by making herself a part of the community and putting the needs of others above her own, she saved all those in exile and brought glory to God's name.

POINTS TO PONDER

- ➔ *How can you take the moral of Esther's story and apply it to your own life? What opportunities do you have to make a change in the world around you because of your position?*
- ➔ *Pray for God to show you ways that you can be his hands and feet to those around you.*

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