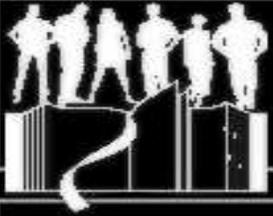


Among the Lions: Mordecai & Esther



The Good, The Bad,
and the Lovely!



Esther 2:

21 ¶ In those days, while Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's officials from those who guarded the door, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. 22 But the plot became known to Mordecai and he told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name. 23 Now when the plot was investigated and found to be so, they were both hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the Book of the Chronicles in the king's presence.

Time and Timing...



God is the Lord of Perfect timing!

He is NEVER late...

He sees AHEAD of where we are...

Esther is now Queen, loved by Ahasuerus (5 years)

Mordecai hears a plot against the king

Takes it to Esther...

A Moment in Time...



Written in the kings presence...

Mark this and take note...

Enter Haman the Agagite = Amakek!!!

Promoted by the king...

Everyone bows, except one... Mordecai!



Esther 3:3-6

3 Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why are you transgressing the king's command?" 4 Now it was when they had spoken daily to him and he would not listen to them, that they told Haman to see whether Mordecai's reason would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew. 5 When Haman saw that Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage to him, Haman was filled with rage. 6 But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him who the people of Mordecai were; therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

Anger Takes its Toll, Again!



An Enraged Haman

He was ENTITLED to homage...

He saw only the one who could not...

Focused on the exception...

And, when he finds out Mordecai is a Jew...

He decides to DESTROY all Jews, everywhere



Esther 3:8-9

8 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from those of all other people and they do not observe the king's laws, so it is not in the king's interest to let them remain.

9 "If it is pleasing to the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who carry on the king's business, to put into the king's treasuries."

A Paid Hit!



Haman knows what the king needs... MONEY!

Following the Greek campaign failure...

10,000 talents was 2/3 of the king's yearly revenue

“do as you please...”

Haman goes UGLY!

He sends orders under the king's seal



Esther 3:13-15

13 Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces to destroy, to kill and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to seize their possessions as plunder. 14 A copy of the edict to be issued as law in every province was published to all the peoples so that they should be ready for this day. 15 The couriers went out impelled by the king's command while the decree was issued at the citadel in Susa; and while the king and Haman sat down to drink, the city of Susa was in confusion.

Did you see it?



Vs. 13 – Haman makes it about MONEY!!!

Don't worry about killing... PROFIT!!!

Much is destroyed in the name of the bottom line...

And the king and Haman?

Get drunk...

This never works well for anyone in power...

What does Mordecai do?



He fasts, prays and seeks the Lord! 4:1-3

Esther hears of the mourning... (4)

Hatach is sent to find out the reasons... (7-9)

Just one problem...

I haven't been called for 30 days! (11)



Esther 4:13-14

13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. 14 "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?"

Its Time!



The time had come...

Esther was in a place of life or death

For her and her people...

And her response?



Esther 4:16

16 "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."