

Missionaries
Lesson -6 Esther and Mordecai

Memory Verse **Hand Out Scriptures to read**

Esther 4:14 (NKJV) *For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"*

Esther in Persia (She lived from about 491-401 BC)

Esther 1:2–20

Esther 1:3–4 (NKJV) *that in the third year of his reign he made a feast for all his officials and servants—the powers of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the princes of the provinces being before him—⁴ when he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the splendor of his excellent majesty for many days, one hundred and eighty days in all.*

Esther 1:10 (NKJV) *On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus,*

1 Corinthians 9:19–22 (NKJV) *For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰ and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; ²¹ to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; ²² to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.*

Esther in the Court of the King

From the prison to the Palace.

Esther 2:10 (NKJV) *Esther had not revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal it.*

***Esther 2:20 (NKJV)** *Now Esther had not revealed her family and her people, just as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai as when she was brought up by him.*

John 4:1–26, the story of Jesus and the woman at the well. Why did Jesus tell her so openly that He was the Messiah, when among His own people He was not so forthcoming?

“Christ was far more reserved when He spoke to them. That which had been withheld from the Jews, and which the disciples were afterward enjoined to keep secret, was revealed to her. Jesus saw that she would make use of her knowledge in bringing others to share His grace.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 190.

Have you ever been in a situation in which you deemed it prudent not to say too much about your faith or your beliefs?

“For Such a Time as This”

Esther 2:5 (NKJV) *In Shushan the citadel there was a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, **the son of Kish, a Benjamite.***

Esther 3:1–5 (NKJV) *After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the **son of Hammedatha the Agagite**, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him. ² And all the king's servants who were within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage. ³ Then the king's servants who were within the king's gate said to Mordecai, “Why do you transgress the king's command?” ⁴ Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told it to Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew. ⁵ When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath.*

The Laws Of The Land

Acts 5:29 (NKJV) *But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.*

***Matthew 22:21 (NKJV)** ²¹ *They said to Him, “Caesar's.” And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.”*

Romans 13:1–2 (NKJV) *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*

Mordecai and Haman

1 Kings 21:25 (NKJV) *But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up.*

Esther 3:1–3 (ESV) *After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and advanced him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him. ² And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage. ³ Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?"*

Esther 6:1–3 (ESV) *On that night the king could not sleep. And he gave orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles, and they were read before the king. ² And it was found written how Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, and who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. ³ And the king said, "What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" The king's young men who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."*

While refusing to bow before a man, he still was a good citizen, in that he exposed the plot against the king.

When Some Gentiles Became Jews

Esther 8:8 (ESV) *But you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked."*

***Esther 8:16–17** (NKJV) *The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor. ¹⁷ And in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday. Then many of the people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.*

Romans 1:18–20 (NKJV) *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

"The trying experiences that came to God's people in the days of Esther were not peculiar to that age alone. The revelator, looking down the ages to the close of time, has declared, "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17. Some who today are living on the earth will see these words fulfilled. The same spirit that in ages past led men to persecute the true church, will in the future lead to the pursuance of a similar course toward those who maintain their loyalty to God. Even now preparations are being made for this last great conflict.

The decree that will finally go forth against the remnant people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews. Today the enemies of the true church see in the little company keeping the Sabbath commandment a Mordecai at the gate. The reverence of God's people for His law is a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling on His Sabbath."—Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 605.

***Ecclesiastes 4:14 [NRSV]** *"One can indeed come out of prison to reign, even though born poor in the kingdom".*

Nelson Mandela, South African activist, served 27 years in prison, for his political struggle against apartheid. Much of his incarceration was spent languishing in a single cell on Robben Island. Yet soon after his release on April 27, 1994 he was elected as president of the country that had once imprisoned him. Talk about an astounding change of status!
Psa 142:7 *Bring my soul out of prison, That I may praise Your name;*

Several cases of going from the prison to the palace **Joseph**

Gen 41:14 *Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh.*

Gen 41:41-45 *And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt.*

Daniel 2:48 (NKJV) *Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.*

Jehoiachin

Jeremiah 52:31-34 (NKJV). *"Now it came to pass in the thirty-seventh year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth day of the month, that Evil-Merodach king of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah and brought him out of prison. And he spoke kindly to him and gave him a more prominent seat than those of the kings who were with him in Babylon. So Jehoiachin changed from his prison garments, and he ate bread regularly before the king all the days of his life. And as for his provisions, there was a regular ration given him by the king of Babylon, a portion for each day until the day of his death, all the days of his life" (*

Eph 2:6 *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

Manasseh

2 Chr 33:10-13 *And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen. Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon. Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.*