

Esther

The evening of Mon, Mar 2, 2026 through Tue, Mar 3, 2026 was Purim. Purim is a joyous Jewish festival celebrated on the 14th of Adar (February/March) to commemorate the salvation of the Jewish people in ancient Persia from Haman's plot to annihilate them. Persia is known today as the country of Iran.

“Purim” is plural and it means lots, like casting lots. It refers to the lots cast by the villain Haman to choose the date for the massacre, which ultimately became a day of victory.

Esther is an extremely important woman who does not appear in the genealogy of Jesus Christ in the books of Matthew or Luke, but was very important in preserving the nation Israel. She is responsible for saving all of the Jews from complete destruction. Ahasuerus was a very powerful king. He ruled from India to Ethiopia in over 127 provinces.

Esther 1:1

Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, **(this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India**

even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)

The king threw a big feast and sent for his queen, Vashti, but she did not come. The king was very angry.

Esther 1:11-12

To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on. But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

The king's advisors suggested how he could take care of Queen Vashti!

Esther 1:19

If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, **That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her**

royal estate unto another that is better than she.

The king didn't want the queen's actions to cause other women to think they could act the way the queen did!

Esther 1:20

And when the king's decree which **he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.**

So the king set out to find another queen.

Esther 2:3-4

And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, **that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace,** to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them: And **let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.**

Esther had an uncle, Mordecai, who had raised her. Mordecai was taken from Israel during the Babylonian captivity. When he heard about the search for a new queen for Ahasuerus, he made sure Esther was among the maidens under consideration.

Esther 2:15

Now when **the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king**, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

Esther became queen!

Esther 2:17

And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; **so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.**

There was one thing that no one knew. Esther was a Jew and Mordecai had asked her not to reveal it.

Esther 2:20

Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.

Right away, Mordecai heard about a plot against the king and had Esther tell the king for Mordecai. The men responsible were hanged on a tree.

Esther 2:21-23

In those days, **while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name.** And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore **they were both hanged on a tree: and it was**

written in the book of the chronicles before the king.

Haman was a proud and dangerous man.

Esther 3:1-2

After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him. And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.

Haman wanted to punish Mordecai for not showing him the proper reverence. He knew that Mordecai was a Jew so he decided to punish Mordecai by destroying him and all of the Jews throughout the entire kingdom! They cast Pur, a lot, in front of Haman to decide when it would be best to carry out this order to destroy the Jews. The destruction of the Jews would take place in the month of Adar.

Esther 3:6-9

And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai. In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar. And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, **There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.**

The king allowed Haman to have his revenge and prepare to kill every Jew in every province for 10 thousand talents of silver!

Esther 3:10-11

And **the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.** And the king said unto Haman, **The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.**

When Mordecai found out about this decree, he went into mourning.

Esther 4:1-2

When Mordecai perceived all that was done, **Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;** And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

He told Esther that she had to talk to the king. Esther reminded Mordecai that if someone went to talk to the king without an invitation, the punishment was death, but if the king held out his golden scepter, the person would be spared. Esther had not been called to see the king for 30 days.

Mordecai told her not to think of herself -- she would be killed anyway because she was a Jew -- and then said those famous words, “who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

Esther 4:10-14

Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai; **All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live:** but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days. And they told to Mordecai Esther's words. Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, **Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who**

knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Esther came up with a plan to talk to the king.

Esther 4:15-17

Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, **Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.** So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

The king held out his golden scepter when he saw Esther so she was able to talk to him. She invited him and Haman to a banquet.

Esther 5:2-4

And it was so, **when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand.** So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the

sceptre. Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom. And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.

Esther's invitation was exactly what would appeal to a proud man like Haman. He went home happy, but then Mordecai did not stand up to acknowledge him as he went by and Haman could not be happy – even with all that he had!

Esther 5:9-13

Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai. Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife. And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and

servants of the king. Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king. Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.

Haman's wife and friends told him to build a very high gallows for Mordecai to be hanged on!

Esther 5:14

Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.

Not coincidentally (God was involved,) when the king couldn't sleep that night, he called for the book of records of the chronicles to be read to him. Mordecai's heroic act of reporting the two chamberlains who were going to lay hands on the king, thereby saving the king's life was read out

of the book. When the king asked what had been done to honor Mordecai for his loyalty, the king was told that nothing had been done for Mordecai!

Esther 6:1-3

On that night could not the king sleep, and he **commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.** And it was found written, **that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.** And the king said, **What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.**

Then it all fell apart for Haman. The king saw Haman outside in the court (Haman was waiting to talk to the king about having Mordecai hanged on the gallows) and called Haman in to consult him about what should be done to honor Mordecai. In his pride, Haman thought that the king was talking about honoring him. He came up with all kinds of honors when he thought they

were going to honor him. Then he found out that all of the honors were going to go to Mordecai!

Esther 6:4-10

And the king said, Who is in the court? **Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.** And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in. **So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour?** Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself? **And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus**

shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour. Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

Haman hurried home in shame to tell his wife and friends about the terrible turn of events. They were not very encouraging!

Esther 6:12

And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. **But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered.** And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. **Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.**

Haman then hurried to the banquet given by Queen Esther.

Esther 6:14

And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and **hasted to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.**

At the banquet, Esther told the king that she was a Jew and her people were to be destroyed. All with Haman right there! The king was very angry and Haman was very afraid!

Esther 7:4-6

For **we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish.** But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage. **Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.**

Haman's gallows was used after all – on Haman!

Esther 7:10

So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

The destruction order still existed and could not be taken back, even by the king himself. The king issued another order that the Jews had the right, indeed the obligation, to defend themselves from the people sent to destroy them.

Esther 8:11-13

Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey, Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar. The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that **the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.**

Now the Jews had reason to celebrate! They were now in charge. Many people became Jews. (You can't really become a Jew, any more than you can "become" Spanish. It means they started following The Law.)

Esther 8:16-17

The **Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.** And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. **And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.**

The Jews came together to defend themselves. The tables turned and they became the ones who had the power.

Esther 9:1-2, 5

Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that

the Jews had rule over them that hated them;) **The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.**

⁵Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them.

Esther wanted to punish Haman's sons as well.

Esther 9:13-14

Then said Esther, If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do to morrow also according unto this day's decree, and **let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows. And the king commanded it so to be done: and the decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons.**

The Jews still celebrate this event every year. It's called Purim after the Pur (the lot) that was cast in front of Haman to decide when his plan to destroy all of the Jews was going to occur.

Esther 9:26-28

Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them, The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as **it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year; And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed.**

So, you see, Esther was a brave woman who risked her life to save her people, the Jews, from certain and complete destruction. She is listed here in the section of the women in Jesus' genealogy because, without her, there would have been no one left in the royal line of David!