




# Metropolis

metrocalvary  children's ministry

# ESTHER

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**Series:** History of Israel – Back in the Land

**Reference:** The Book of Esther

**Today's Theme Verse:** <sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. (*Romans 8:28 NASB*)

**Last Week's Theme Verse:** 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. (*Ecclesiastes 4:9*)

**Theme:** God is in Control

**Objectives:**

1. The children will see that God is in control even when we can't see what He is doing.
  2. The children will know that God is in control even when things seem to be going wrong.
  3. The children will realize that God is in control for our good.
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**Introduction:** We are setting aside some time to think about some of the heroes of the faith we read about in the Bible. As we look at these heroes we want to see that what makes them heroes is that they trusted in the Lord and they pointed us to Jesus; the greatest of all heroes. Today we are thinking about Esther.

The story of Esther is found in the Old Testament book named for her. The Book of Esther is about Jews who remained in Persia when others returned to Jerusalem. In particular, the story is about a young Jewish woman who became queen of Persia (*Esther 1-2*). While she was queen her people, the Jews, were threatened with extinction (*Esther 3*). But God had providentially made Esther queen “for such a time as this” (*Esther 4*). God is in control even when things seem to be going wrong. There are no miracles in the book of Esther, but God is quietly working so that everything comes out the way He planned. God is in control even when we can’t see what He is doing. God worked everything out so that Haman, the man who wanted to destroy the Jews, was himself killed (*Esther 5-7*), and the Jews were kept safe and unharmed (*Esther 8-10*). God worked everything out for the good of His people. If you are a Christian today, God is working everything in your life for your good, so that you will be kept eternally safe and unharmed. God is in control for our good. “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (*Romans 8:28*).

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**Lesson:**

**I. Ahasuerus, King of Persia, Selected Esther as His Queen (*Esther 1:1-2:20*)**

When King Ahasuerus called for Vashti to appear at his banquet, she refused (*Esther 1:1-12*). Because Vashti disobeyed the king, he removed her from being queen (*Esther 1:13-22*). Ahasuerus had all the unmarried beautiful young women of his kingdom brought to his palace at Susa, so that he could choose a new queen from among them (*Esther 1-4*). Among those young women brought to the palace was a young Jewish woman named Esther, the adopted daughter of Mordecai. Before they were brought before the king, all the young women were prepared with cosmetics and a special diet for a year (*Esther 2:8; 12-14*). Esther was gaining favor with everyone, but she kept her Jewish heritage a secret because the Persians disliked the Jews. Daily, Mordecai walked by the place where the young women were living to see what was happening to Esther (*Esther 2:9-11; 15*). When Esther was taken before the king, he loved her and chose her to be queen. He put the crown on her head and gave a party in her honor (*Esther 2:16-18*). This all seemed to be a natural chain of events. But God was in control, bringing about His plan and purpose for His people. God is in control even when we can’t see what He is doing. God is in control for our good.

**II. Mordecai the Jew Saved King Ahasuerus’ Life (*Esther 2:19-22*).**

While Mordecai was sitting in the king’s gate, he overheard two of the king’s servant plotting to kill the king (*Esther 2:21-22a*). Mordecai told this to Queen Esther. Queen Esther told it to the king and she told the king that the information came from Mordecai (*Esther 2:22*). The plan to kill the king was stopped, and the two men were put to death. This was all written in the official record, but Mordecai was not rewarded (*Esther 2:23*).

**III. Haman Planned the Destruction of the Jews (*Esther 3:1-9*)**

Ahasuerus promoted a man named Haman (*Esther 3:1*). Everyone was commanded to bow down to Haman, but Mordecai, because he was a Jew, refused to bow down to Haman (*Esther 3:2-4*). Haman’s was furious at Mordecai, but his hatred extended to all the Jews. So, Haman determined to destroy all the Jews in Ahasuerus’ kingdom (*Esther 3:5-6*). The Jews were God’s special people. God chose them to represent Him in the world, to give the law to them, and to send the Savior, Jesus Christ, through them (*Romans 9:4-5*). Haman accused the Jews before Ahasuerus. He said they are different, they don’t keep your laws and they should not be tolerated (*Esther 3:8*). Haman suggested a decree that authorized the people of the kingdom to kill Jews and take their stuff (*Esther 3:9*).

#### **IV. The King Approved Haman's Plan to Destroy the Jews (*Esther 3:10-15*)**

Ahasuerus approved Haman's plan, and gave him his signet ring and the money needed to put the plan into effect (*Esther 3:10-11*). Haman issued the decree, sealed it with the king's ring, and sent it throughout the kingdom. The decree said that on a particular day the people were to destroy, kill, and annihilate all Jews (*Esther 3:12-15*). How could this happen? Where is God? Everything is going wrong! God is in control even when things seem to be going wrong.

#### **V. Mordecai and the Jews were in Distress, but God was in Control (*Esther 4:1-7*).**

Mordecai and all the Jews throughout the kingdom were weeping and fasting, putting on sackcloth and ashes (*Esther 4:1-3*). Esther sent servants to Mordecai with clean clothes for him, but when he refused she sent a servant to find out why he was in distress (*Esther 4:4-6*). Mordecai sent word to Esther about the decree and the coming day destruction, and he sent her a copy of the decree. He told her to go into the king to plead with him on the behalf of her people the Jews (*Esther 4:7-9*). Esther sent word to Mordecai explaining that anyone going before the king without being summoned would be put to death except the one to whom the king raised his golden scepter, and that she had not been called into the king for 30 days (*Esther 4:10-12*). Mordecai warned Esther that if she did not do something, she would not escape destruction because she was in the king's palace. And Mordecai expressed confidence that the Jews would be saved one way or another, but if Esther failed to do what she could, she and all her relatives would perish (*Esther 4:13-14a*). Mordecai told Esther, "who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (*Esther 4:13-14b*). It was God's providence that brought her to the throne for this crises.

#### **VI. Esther Determined to do What She Could (*Esther 4:16-17*)**

Esther sent word to Mordecai to gather all the Jews in Susa and call them to a three day fast, and she and her young women would do the same. Then after the three days, she would break the fast and go before the king without being called. Esther said, "if I perish, I perish." She was determined that she would do what she could to be God's means of rescuing her people the Jews from the destruction that was coming upon them.

#### **VII. Esther Before the King (*Esther 5:1-8*)**

On the third day, Esther did as she had determined, and went before the king without knowing if she would live or die (*Esther 5:1*). When the king saw her, he was pleased and he lifted his scepter inviting her to approach (*Esther 5:2*). The king asked Esther what she requested, and he would give it to her up to half of his kingdom. The queen invited the king and Haman to a feast she had prepared, so Ahasuerus called for Haman to come and join them for the feast (*Esther 5:3-4*). While they were feasting, the king again asked Esther what her request was. Esther said, if the king wanted to grant her request, then let the king and Haman come to the feast she would prepare tomorrow and she would tell him what her request was (*Esther 5:5-8*).

#### **VIII. Haman Planned to Hang Mordecai the Jew (*Esther 5:9-14*)**

Haman left the feast joyful and glad of heart because he had been invited to feast with the king and queen, but when he saw Mordecai at the gate he became angry because Mordecai did not reverence him. But he didn't do anything to him. Instead he went home and called for his wife and friends (*Esther 5:9-10*). Haman told his wife and friends about the glories and promotion that he had received and how he alone had been invited to feast with the king and queen and that he was again invited to feast with them the next day (*Esther 5:11-12*). But Haman said all these honors meant nothing to him as long as Mordecai sat in the gate of the king. Haman's wife suggested that he build 75 feet tall gallows, and in the morning tell the king to have Mordecai hanged on them. The suggestion pleased Haman, and he had the gallows built (*Esther 5:13-14*).

### **IX. Mordecai is Honored and Haman is Humiliated (*Esther 6:1-14*)**

The night that Haman had the gallows on which he planned to hang Mordecai built, King Ahasuerus could not sleep so he had the official record book of memorable deeds read to him. It was read to him what Mordecai did to save the life of the king when he heard men planning to kill him. So the king asked what honor had been done to Mordecai for his service. The answer was that “Nothing has been done for him.” (*Esther 6:1-3*). The king asked who was in the court. Haman had just come in to ask the king to have Mordecai hanged (*Esther 6:4-5*). There are no coincidences. **God is in control**. The king asked Haman, "What should be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?" Because of his pride, Haman thought the king must have wanted to honor him. So Haman listed all the high honors that he would have liked the king to bestow on him (*Esther 6:6-9*). The king told Haman to hurry and personally do to Mordecai all the honors he had listed and not to leave out any part. (*Esther 6:10*). So Haman went and did all these things to Mordecai. Haman was now leading Mordecai through the city square on the king’s horse dressed in the king’s robe and proclaiming before him, “Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.” (*Esther 6:11*). Mordecai returned to his responsibilities at the king’s gate, and Haman went home humiliated and mourning. When he told his wife what had happened, she said, if Mordecai is a Jew, you will surely fall before him. Then the king’s servants arrived to escort Haman to the feast with the king and Esther (*Esther 6:12-14*).

### **X. Esther Makes Her Request (*Esther 7:1-6*)**

The king and Haman came to the feast with queen Esther, and afterward the king asked Esther to make her request and he would grant it up to half the kingdom (*Esther 7:1-2*). Esther asked that her life and the lives of her people be spared (*Esther 7:3*). The king would have had no idea what the queen was talking about because she had never told him that she was a Jew. Esther explained: “For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated.” The king asked who had dared to do such a thing, and Esther said, “A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen (*Esther 7:5-6*). Haman is now identified as the enemy of Jews, and he is also seen to be an enemy by the king because he has threatened the life of his queen. God worked everything out for the good of His people. **God is in control for our good** (*Romans 8:28*).

### **XI. Haman’s End (*Esther 7:7-10*)**

The king was angry and he walked out into the garden. Haman, knowing that he was in great trouble, stayed and began begging Queen Esther, the adopted daughter of Mordecai, for his life (*Esther 7:7*). The king walked back in just as Haman fell on the queen’s couch begging her for mercy. The king thought Haman was attacking the queen. The king said, “Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?” When the king had spoken, a servant covered Haman’s face. This was done to those condemned to death (*Esther 7:8*). A servant told the king that Haman’s seventy-five foot tall gallows on which he intended to hang Mordecai was standing in his yard. This is the first the king had heard of Haman’s intention to hang Mordecai, whom the king had just that morning honored. The king said, “hang Haman on that.” So Haman was hanged on the gallows he had built for Mordecai (*Esther 7:9-10*).

### **XII. Esther Saved the Jews (*Esther 8:1-17*)**

The king gave Haman’s house to Queen Esther and gave Mordecai Haman’s position as prime minister (*Esther 8:1-2*). Esther wept and pleaded with the king to put a stop to the evil plan that Haman had put in motion against the Jews. “Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows, because he intended to lay hands on the Jews. 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 8:3-8)*. So Mordecai dictated a new decree, in the name of the king, giving the Jews the right to defend themselves against anyone who would seek to do them harm and to kill them and plunder their property. The decree was sent out to all the provinces of the kingdom. The Jews were told to be ready to defend themselves on the day that had been set for their destruction *(Esther 8:9-14)*. The Jews throughout the kingdom rejoiced when the news of Mordecai's decree reached them *(Esther 8:15-17)*.

### **XIII. The Jews Destroyed Their Enemies *(Esther 9:1-5)***

“Now in the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's command and edict were about to be carried out, on the very day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, the reverse occurred: the Jews gained mastery over those who hated them. The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could stand against them, for the fear of them had fallen on all peoples. All the officials of the provinces and the satraps and the governors and the royal agents also helped the Jews, for the fear of Mordecai had fallen on them. For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces, for the man Mordecai grew more and more powerful. The Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and did as they pleased to those who hated them.”

### **XIV. Conclusion**

Having received authority to make a new decree to save their people, Esther and Mordecai must have been filled with praise to God for His providential care in placing them in the kingdom at just the right time. God is in control even when we can't see what He is doing. How wonderfully God had worked, moving people and events in just the right way to accomplish His plan. Remember, as we have seen, when everything seemed to be going wrong for the Jews, God is in control even when things seem to be going wrong. For those of us who know Jesus Christ as Lord, God is in control for our good. “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose” *(Romans 8:28)*.  
*(Adapted from the Children's Ministry Resource Bible)*

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C i t y

5th / 4th

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Listen to the Lesson! Make a Mark For each time you hear:

BIBLE	GOD	JESUS	LOVE
Christian	Faith	Heaven	Pray

Lesson Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORY VERSE

QUESTIONS I HAVE?

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PRAYER REQUESTS

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POINTS OF THE MESSAGE

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2:

3:



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