

QUEEN ESTHER

RWC Class - September 16, 2025 by Connie Smith



Historical Information:

1. Esther's Jewish name was Hadassa. At some point in her childhood, Hadassa lost her parents and was adopted by her cousin Mordecai.
2. Hadassa means **myrtle tree** or **branch**. The myrtle tree, in Hebrew, is a symbol in the Bible and ancient cultures of peace, joy, prosperity, and **resilience**. It is a resilient evergreen with a pleasant fragrance, symbolizing enduring life, joy, and beauty.
3. **Resilience:** The ability of the myrtle to grow back stronger after being damaged is seen as a symbol of perseverance and renewal. This is a recurring theme throughout the book of Esther, not just for her personally but for the Jewish people.
4. She was from the tribe of Benjamin, as were most of the Jews who lived in Shushan and the surrounding provinces.
5. Where did she live? In the Persian capital of Shushan (Susa).
6. The story of Esther takes place in ancient Persia between 483 BC and 473 BC, during the reign of King Ahasuerus (Xerxes I)
7. Her Persian name was Esther which means "Star" after the goddess of beauty; but in Hebrew means "to Hide" or "Conceal".
8. **Haman's Background:** In the Bible, Haman's background is defined by his lineage as an "Agagite," (e-ga-gite) which identifies him as a descendant of Agag, the king of the Amalekites. The Amalekites were a people who were the sworn enemies of the Israelites for generations. The conflict between the Amalekites and Israelites goes back centuries before Haman's time, as described in the book of 1 Samuel. God commanded King Saul of Israel to completely destroy the Amalekites for their unprovoked attack on the Israelites during the Exodus (1 Samuel 15:1–3, Exodus 17:8).
 - King Saul failed to obey this command fully. He spared Agag, the Amalekite king, and many of the best livestock (1 Samuel 15:9).
 - Because of Saul's disobedience, the prophet Samuel ultimately executed Agag (1 Samuel 15:33). However, some of Agag's descendants survived due to Saul's earlier failure.
 - It is very probable that Haman's attempt to exterminate the Jews in the Book of Esther could be understood as a continuation of this ancient, generational enmity between his Amalekite ancestors and the Jewish people.

KEY POINTS From the Book of Esther:

Vessel of Honor:

2 Tim 2:20-21 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor; sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.



Notes: _____

If someone were to write your story, would you be described as a vessel of honor?

Look up the following scriptures:

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4
- 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
- Psalms 8:5

Consider this: We are the workmanship of God. A visible, living, breathing part of His good works. Our lives will be a testament to whether we are vessels of honor or dishonor.

Purification:

Our Heavenly Father has provided all the tools and supplies we need to become purified. The scriptures call our time here a preparatory state....

Are you prepared to meet the King? Ask yourself these questions:

- How do I spend my time?
- Am I reading the scriptures daily?
- Do I repent daily?
- Is my faith one of action?
- Am I a doer of the Word?
- Do I experiment on God's Word?
- Do I praise God daily?
- Am I thankful and grateful?
- Do I fast regularly?
- From Alma 3-Am I stripped of pride?
- Am I stripped of envy? (These things cannot be taken into the Kingdom.)
- Do I mock others?
- Do I gossip?
- Do I complain?
- Am I idle?



What is the next part of your purification process? To be refined as Gold & Silver?

Chosen:

Bill Jones wrote an article for me one year about being chosen. He wrote:

The people of Israel were chosen, not to be God's favorites, but for a work that He could accomplish through them.

Matthew 22:14

John 15:16

- **Has God chosen you for a work to glorify Him?**

Surrender:

Esther 4:13-14 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. 14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall their 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?

Contemplate your own offerings to the Lord:

Do you withhold serving or your gifts? = if so, the people will starve

Do you give or serve grudgingly = if so, you are offering blemished fruit that no one wants to consume.

Do you serve heartily (graciously, willingly, generously) = good fruit

Michael Brown said in a sermon, “**The day of our surrender is the day of the Lord’s power.**”

Queen Esther surrendered her will and then with a willing heart (heartily) offered herself to plead with the King for her people at the risk of her life.

Hope in all times & places:

2 Corinthians 4:6-10

- When we are **troubled (beset by problems or conflict)** on every side, we are not distressed;
- When we are **perplexed (completely baffled, very puzzled, confused)**, we will not be in despair;
- When we are **Persecuted (subject to hostility or ill-treatment)**, we are not forsaken;
- When we are **Cast down (depressed, heart-broken, miserable, worried, sad, upset)**, we are not destroyed;



None of these things: problems, conflict, confusion, hostility, depression, heart-brokenness, being miserable, lonely, worried, sad, upset, fear, sickness, disease, broken relationships, etc can separate us from the love of God.

We have this hope in Jesus Christ! Who takes our weaknesses and troubles and shines His light on them. He brings beauty from ashes, he anoints us with gladness, joy for the spirit of heaviness. He loves it when we cry out to Him.

All of these good things come from God. He is the author of light and goodness and hope in all times and in all places.

Sacrificial Love:

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Esther 4:16 ...If I perish, I perish.

Notes: _____

God’s Purposes & Plans Fail Not:

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

DC 76:1c his purposes fail not, neither are there any who can stay his hand; from eternity to eternity he is the same, and his years never fail.

Haman’s plans unraveled while God’s plans unfolded.

Notes: _____

For Such a Time as This...

Mordecai and Esther were placed in time when they could be the means of saving the Jewish race from extermination. Both of them were carriers of God's glory to shine God's Light upon the people of their time.

We are crowned with God's glory and honor. We are carriers of His glory and light. If we don't let that shine through our lives in our offerings and service, then God will raise up another people who will. His Kingdom must go forth upon the earth that the Kingdom of Heaven can come. (The phrase "carriers" of God's glory" came from Chief Kenny Blacksmith of the Cree Nation, Canada.)

Mercy:

Colossians 3:12-14 *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; Forbearing one another and forgiving one another...And above all...put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*

The fear of the Jews came upon many people. This caused them to rise up and many became Jews. The point is, the Jews were saved through miraculous circumstances. Also, the people who would have joined with the Kings order to exterminate the Jews instead helped protect them. Thousands upon thousands of people were saved from a harsh judgment from God for killing the Jews! That's mercy fresh from the King.

Pattern in the Book of Esther:

A pattern began to jump out at me as I read through this book and pondered it. It's a pattern that has played out in several other scriptures with several other people:

1. **Called up or called out**
2. **Chosen**
3. **Light Shared which restores/brings hope**
4. **Fruit Born**
5. **Gathering occurred**
6. **Mercy**
7. **Salvation and a turning of many to the Lord**
8. **Fruit Remained**



(Festival of Purim)

Book of Esther after counter measures in place:

1. Esther and Mordecai were called up
2. They were chosen to put down the enemy
3. Light shone in the darkness and hope given
4. The Jews gathered together
5. Fruit Born – enemies destroyed/spoils taken
6. Mercy granted
7. 100's of thousands saved
8. Her Fruit Remains – Festival of Purim is still celebrated today in memory of Queen Esther

Joseph of Egypt:

1. Joseph was called up/sold in slavery
2. Chosen by Potiphar, Jailer, Pharoh
3. Resilient to all hardships & trials (purified)
4. Fruit Born-Carrier of God's glory
5. Gathering of peoples to Egypt
6. Mercy shone to brethren
7. Salvation to many nations
8. Fruit remained – His life, his endurance, his success is written for all to read and learn from