

# ESTHER AND MORDECAI: FROM RAGS TO ROYALTY

## Unexpected Heroes – Part 8

Esther 1-10

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1. Ungodly men use and exploit women; godly men respect and protect them.

*“Then when the king’s edict is proclaimed throughout all his vast realm, all the women will respect their husbands, from the least to the greatest.” ...every man should be ruler over his own household.* – Esther 1:20, 22 NIV

*In the evening she would go there and in the morning return to another part of the harem to the care of Shaashgaz the king’s eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. She would not return to the king unless he was pleased with her and summoned her by name.* – Esther 2:14 NIV

*Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.* – Esther 2:7 NIV

2. God positioned Esther for maximum impact.

*Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women.... So he set a royal crown on her head and made her the queen instead of Vashti.* – Esther 2:17 NIV

*[Mordecai:] “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?”* – Esther 4:14 NIV

3. One man’s compromise allowed Haman to endanger a nation of God’s people.

➤ Exodus 17:8-16; Deuteronomy 25:17-19;

*After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. ...Haman looked for a way to destroy all of Mordecai’s people, the Jews, throughout all the kingdom of Xerxes.... Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king’s provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and little children—on a single day....* – Esther 3:1, 6, 13 NIV

*“But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalakites and brought back Agag their king.” Then Samuel said... “Not doing what God tells you is far worse than fooling around with the occult. Because you said No to God’s command, he says No to your kingship.”* – 1 Samuel 15:20, 23 NIV/MSG

4. Mordecai refused to yield to that which God had condemned.

*All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.* – Esther 3:2 NIV

5. Esther fasted and prayed, and then courageously approached the king.

*Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."* – Esther 4:15-16 NIV

➤ Esther 5:1-3; 7:3-4

6. God richly rewarded Esther and Mordecai and turned His people's weeping into joy.

*That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. ...Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem....* – Esther 8:1 & 10:3 NIV

*On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them.... The Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword.... They killed seventy-five thousand of them but did not lay their hands on the plunder. ...when the Jews got relief from their enemies...their sorrow was turned into joy and mourning into a day of celebration.* – Esther 9:1, 5, 16 & 22 NIV