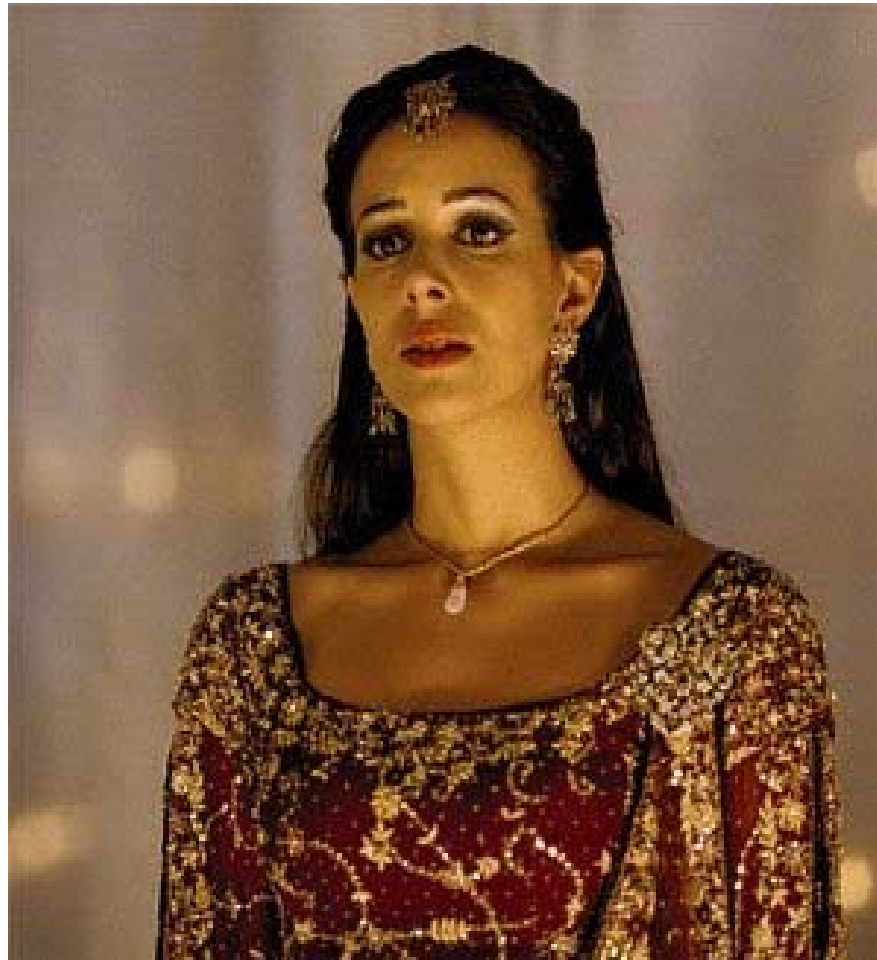


Great Women of the Bible



Queen Esther

A Great Woman of the Bible



Background

The life of Esther is the story of a woman who rises from her difficult circumstances to become a Queen with a purpose. Esther's parents die and she is raised by her older cousin, Mordecai. Mordecai is a great man with a strong moral code and a desire to do what is right and just. Esther benefits from having him guide her. You can tell that she has learned well from him. She, too, has a strong moral code and when she becomes Queen she uses her influences and morals to save her people, the Jews, from persecution.

Esther is a bible character who didn't have an easy upbringing, but God reshaped her life and allowed her to achieve great things. From her, we will learn that though our circumstances may be difficult, that God can use us in a mighty way!

Esther 1: 10-12, 15, 19

As we begin the Book of Esther, we meet King Xerxes and Queen Vashti. Queen Vashti was a beautiful woman and her husband, King Xerxes enjoyed putting his Queen on display for his friends and associates. In scripture, we find that Queen Vashti rejects King Xerxes' latest request for her to come and entertain his guests. She has a mind of her own and has decided to do her own thing. This angers King Xerxes and he begins a search to find the next Queen.

Esther 2: 1-2, 5-11

The search for Queen Vashti's replacement begins and we meet Esther. A beautiful young woman who had lost both her father and mother and was being raised and cared for by her older cousin, Mordecai. Esther was a Jew, but Mordecai forbade her from revealing her nationality. It can be concluded that Mordecai didn't want Esther's heritage to be counted against her and he wanted her to be safe from people who were in conflict with the Jews.



What kind of man is Mordecai?

He sacrificed tremendously to raise his young cousin and he seems to genuinely care about her well-being.

*Mordecai has **character**. How can you improve your character and become a better person?*



Esther 2: 17-18

Esther finds favor with the King
and he selects her to become the
new Queen.

Haman

Haman is a man who had recently been given a great degree of power by the King. This new authority allows Haman to require that men bow down before him. When Mordecai refuses to bow down, Haman's arrogance takes over and he mandates that Mordecai and the rest of the Jews be killed throughout the kingdom.



Esther 4: 12-14

...for such a time as this

- *Mordecai makes Esther aware that she must use her influence with the King to save the Jews from Haman's plot. When Esther seems to hesitate because of royal protocol, Mordecai reminds her that life may have led her to her royal position so that she could step in to this particular situation and save her people.*
- ***Life Lesson: Sometimes God puts us in position for a particular purpose and it is our responsibility to carry out that purpose.***

Question for Thought:

What is it that God wants from you now? Does He have a specific situation He wants you to intervene in or be involved with?

Esther 8: 3-7

Esther intervenes and uses her royal influence and the favor she has with the King to save the Jews.

Life Lesson: Use your power and influence for good and not evil.

Esther 9: 4, 10: 3

- Mordecai is rewarded. He becomes powerful and influential. We have now witnessed how both Esther and Mordecai were exalted from their humble, ordinary beginnings and became highly regarded, esteemed leaders.
- Mordecai did the right thing by taking on the responsibility of raising Esther and because of his dedication towards her, his life was blessed for it.

Life Lesson: When you do the right thing by others, you will be blessed.

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Esther's Legacy

- Sacrificing for others who need you is a noble thing
- Stand up for that which is right even when you face difficult circumstances
- Do what's right by other people and you will be rewarded
- Sometimes we are placed in a position for a reason and we should fulfill that purpose
- God can take a person from humble beginnings and make them *GREAT!*