



# Esther

## A True Heroine

Written by: Nermine Mansour  
St Mark: Phoenix, AZ

**T**he Books of the Holy Bible reveal many inspirational heroes and heroines, better known as saints. One such book unveils the courageous story of Queen Esther. The Holy Book of Esther is one of my favorite books in the Holy Bible because it is a true “rags to riches” tale that explains Esther’s story through a series of flowing events leading up to a great climax and then finally a happy ending by persecuting the antagonist and saving the righteous. As I read these ten chapters, I am plunged into Esther’s life and I watch her as she grows strong in the faith of the Lord. Though she was the

Queen of over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, rich, glamorous and praised by all, this devout young woman displayed four righteous characteristics that have become cornerstones of Christianity. Though endowed with physical beauty, Esther’s obedience, selflessness, courage and love convey her true inner beauty and noble characteristics.

Most of you will agree that at times we find it difficult to obey our parents, especially as we grow into mature and independent adulthood. We question our parents’ logic and sometimes their authority, belittling or even

*continued from page 67*

for a second. After a little while in prison, two prisoners with **Joseph** had dreams. They came to **Joseph** and told their dreams to him. By the power of God, **Joseph** interpreted their dreams and the one who was the chief butler was saved and brought out of prison. **Joseph** told him to tell Pharaoh to release him because he didn’t do anything wrong. The one who was the chief baker was hanged according to the interpretation. The chief butler forgot about **Joseph**, but God didn’t. Later on, Pharaoh had two dreams as well and wanted someone to interpret them. Only then did the chief butler remember **Joseph** and told Pharaoh what he had done to him and what he can do. So Pharaoh sent for **Joseph** and by the power of God



*Joseph and his brothers*

he interpreted both dreams to be a famine. Pharaoh then made **Joseph** the second most important person in the land of Egypt and they prepared for the famine.

This is a lesson we all as youth can learn. All this time **Joseph** stuck with his faith and all this time, God did not leave him for even one second. Let us all try to be like **Joseph** in every way we can saying no to the sin no matter what it is, even though we are free. This is a privilege that we have that **Joseph** never had. **Joseph** was a slave when Potipher’s wife stalked him. When she asked him, he, as a slave, had to obey.

But as a slave to God he was strong enough to refuse even thinking about the sin because he would sin against God himself.



ignoring their requests. During these times, we should follow Esther's example of obedience. Though Mordecai was her cousin, an equal, Esther obeyed and respected him as her guardian, and loved him as a daughter. Esther's obedience is revealed when the author mentions that "Esther had not revealed her family and her people, just as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai as when she was brought up by him" (Esther 2:20).

Here the Holy Bible specifically states that even as a Queen, Esther stayed loyal to her cousin and obeyed him. In addition to her obedience, Esther's selflessness is also exemplified in scripture.

Coming from a poor family, with only Mordecai to support her, Esther did not relish in the newly found luxuries that were bestowed upon her while living in the king's palace. It is mentioned that after each woman was "beautified" and ready to be presented to the king, "she was given whatever she desired to take with her from the women's quarters to the king's palace" (Esther 2:13). These items consisted mainly of precious jewels, fancy materials and expensive accessories. "Now when the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his daughter, to go in to the king, she requested nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the custodian of the women, advised" (Esther 2:15). Esther was not interested in frivolities, but rather, her



*Esther's Bravery (Esther 4:1)*

main concern was to please Mordecai by obeying his request to live in the palace.

Furthermore, Esther had no desire to gain any respect and authority from the king for her own personal advantage. In fact, "while Mordecai sat within the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, doorkeepers, became furious and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. So the matter became known to Mordecai, who told Queen Esther, and

Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name" (Esther 2:21,22). Esther could have kept all the glory for herself by not mentioning to the king that it was Mordecai who informed her of the doorkeepers' plot, but out of selflessness and love, she informed the king of Mordecai's loyalty so that the king may find favor in his sight. Finally, Esther's true test of selflessness is revealed when "the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!" (Esther 5:3). He did not ask her this question once, but the Holy Book of Esther conveys that King Ahasuerus repeated these questions on four separate occasions! Esther may have easily requested anything she desired, at any price, but never did she request of anything from the king except for the safety of her people. This illustrates Esther's true love for her people and family.

The Holy Book of Esther displays several examples



of Esther's love for others over her own. Esther's love and courage gave her the strength to petition to the king, despite the risk of jeopardizing herself. "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live" (Esther 4:10). Though Esther had "not been called to go in to the king these thirty days" (Esther 4:11) and despite fear for her life, Esther told Hathach, the king's eunuch, "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!" (Esther 4:16). Esther found the courage to go to the king and request of him saying, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss" (Esther 7:3,4). Here is where Esther reveals (even to herself) her true courage and faith in God. Although her people might have been annihilated, Esther's Jewish descent was held in secret, and therefore, she was likely to be saved. However, despite fear for her life, she racked up the courage and faith to reveal to the king her Jewish identity and furthermore, pleaded with the king when she had not even been allowed to visit him! Additionally, she was courageous enough to use powerful words and declare to the king how great his loss would be if the Jews were annihilated! Only one with great love could find the courage and determination to endanger herself in order to attempt to save her people. Esther's love is not only displayed in this example but also in others when referring to

Mordecai. When Esther discovered that Mordecai had "tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city...[and] cried out with a loud and bitter cry," she was "deeply distressed" (Esther 4:2). As a concerned and loving daughter, "she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him" (Esther 4:4). Furthermore, "on that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman" (Esther 8:1). Esther looked out for Mordecai's well being and made sure that he was properly taken care of by appointing him over Haman's house. By doing this, she was not only securing Mordecai's welfare, but also his status in society.

The Holy Book of Esther is about courage and love for God and one another. Throughout much of this Holy Book, the outlook for Mordecai and the Jews looked bleak. The last chapters of the book reveal God's reversal of circumstances. This teaches us that we should live our lives not focused on current situations but with a view to how our story will end. The book of Esther calls us to look at the lives of people committed to God if we want to know what God is doing to bring about deliverance in our own world. God worked through a courageous old man who refused to abandon his principles and through a courageous woman who valued the lives of her people more than she did her own. Though young in years, Queen Esther demonstrated discipline, faith and love that we must all aspire to. She is a true heroine and role model to all of us, and if we should ever find ourselves lucky enough to have our faith tested as hers was, we must continue the testimony of faith and be courageous enough to wash away our fears in an attempt to bring about God's justice.