Sunday, February 21, 2016 – New Heights Christian Church, Kent, WA – Wayne Dyrness
**Discovering Jesus in The Book of Esther** ©2016 Wayne Dyrness

Last October 2015, my sermon was “Discovering Jesus in The book of Ruth.” At that time, I mentioned I had not preached at New Heights since 2009, and that I was thrilled that my sermon made such an impact to have been asked back so soon, i.e., 7 years later. So, sensing I might be onto something big here, and that it appeared that I was being worked into a “regular” rotating schedule, I took a chance and invited everyone to return to hear me preach again…in 2021. Well, to my surprise, I didn’t have to wait until 2021 to be asked to preach again. Dan called me in January and asked if I would preach for him today. I’m excited to return once again and share from God’s word. Today, I will be leading you into “Discovering Jesus in the book of Esther.”

Ideally, this sermon could easily run several weeks. Trying to run through 10 chapters, or should I say ‘sprint,’ is going to be a tough task. If you picked up my sermon notes this morning and were surprised by the number of pages in it, you may think that the sermon is going to take at least 5 hours. Trust me, it won’t!

My Esther study exceeds 20+ pages. Out of necessity due to time constraints, I needed to dramatically scale the content down for this presentation. If you want to explore the book of Esther in greater depth, and discover just how rich it is in content, I would be happy to provide you with the larger set of notes upon request. Even so, I’m confident that your eyes will be open to discover something new and fresh today, something that you’ve never seen before in the book of Esther.

**Background**The Book of Esther is one of only two books in the entire Bible named for women. The other is the book of Ruth, which was the topic of my last sermon. The book of Esther is the story of a beautiful young Jewess who risked her life to serve God and to save her people.

Historically, as punishment for idolatry and disobedience to Yahweh, God allowed the Babylonians to conquer the Jews, who were scattered throughout the Babylonian Empire. The Babylonians were conquered by Cyrus the Persian (a.k.a. Cyrus the Great). A year later, Cyrus issued a decree to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the temple, as we read about in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah many Jews did not return to Jerusalem either because they had become established where they were and/or did not wish to risk the dangerous journey back to their homeland. Esther's family were among the Jews who stayed behind in Persia.

The book of Esther does not mention the name of God. Although we cannot see God, his providential hand is at work, he is always doing things in the world. Nobody can stop his plans. Let’s examine the story of Esther and, in the process, discover some faith lessons that we can apply to our daily lives.

**Introducing the Main Characters
King Ahasuerus** (who was also known as King Xerxes) – wealthy king of Persia, the dominant and greatest empire of its day.

**Queen Vashti** - the beautiful wife of Xerxes

**Hegai** - the King’s chamberlain, a eunuch, who was in charge of the women in the King’s harem.

**Esther -** Esther was born as Hadasseh. She became an orphan when both of her parents died. Her older cousin, uncle, Mordecai, adopted and raised her. It is believed she adopted the Persian name Esther when she entered the Persian court harem. After one of year of beauty treatments, she became queen.

**Mordecai** – the older cousin of Esther, who raised her as his daughter. Mordecai served as a gatekeeper, and this position enabled him to stay in continual communication with Esther. It also gave him opportunity to keep in the loop as he listened in on conversations.

**Haman the Agagite –** A chief prince of king Ahasuerus. Agag was the king of the Amalekites at the time Saul was Israel’s first king, had the dubious distinction of being the first people to attack God’s people to destroy them after leaving Egypt on the Exodus. Saul did not kill King Agag as instructed. As a result, God promised Moses that he would be at war with them from generation to generation until their memory was blotted out (Ex. 17:8-16; Deut. 25:17-19).

**Chapter 1:**King Ahasuerus, in the 3rd year of his reign, decides to throw a big shindig. According to the 1st book of *Esther 1:4,* *"For a full 180 days (6 months!) he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty."*

This banquet he was hosting was actually a banquet to prepare for an expedition against Greece. Sources suggest that he wanted to avenge his father’s defeat at the Battle of Marthon near Athens (490 BC). This is an elaborate pep rally. He was hoping to get the military leaders, princes and nobles to support him with soldiers, food, supplies and money for the upcoming military campaign.

This was nothing but vain glory. He follows this up with a 7-day banquet with a no limit bar in gold goblets, just for the people of Susa, the capital city. The king gets “merry with wine.” Some commentators say he got drunk. He that had rule over 127 provinces, had no rule over his own spirit.

He brags, "I got it all folks: wealth, gold, hot wheels on my chariot, and a really HOT wife!"

On the 3rd day of the banquet, having drunk to much wine, he summons his wife, Queen Vashti, to dress up to the max and make an appearance, for the purpose of dishonoring her. Some commentators suggest that she was "to appear wearing *only* her royal crown." More likely, the reason she did not come, is because it was considered shameful to show her face to the masses. When she went out, she went veiled. The king was trying to show off her face, not her body. Since this would be undignified and beneath her station, the queen refused.

The rich and powerful king was furious. Here he was trying to get faithful supporters for his war, and he cannot get even his own wife to obey him. An example needed to be made. The king consulted his lawyers and they suggested she be banished (possibly returned to the harem) and a new queen who would obey be found.

***Esther 1:19. If it pleases the king, let a royal decree go out from him, and let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it will not be altered, that Vashti shall come no more before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.***

**Chapter 2 - Miss Persia Beauty Pageant**Mordecai and Esther are introduced. They were Jews living in Susa as exiles. They were cousins. Mordecai raised the orphan Esther. She was extremely beautiful. The search began for a new queen. Esther was taken to the palace with other women. She won the favor of her caretaker, Hegai, and was moved to the front of the harem. Does this not remind you of the promotion to head servant for Joseph within Potipher’s house?

She undertook 12 months of beauty treatments in preparation to spend an evening with the king in the future. Mordecai instructs Esther not to reveal that she is Jewish. When she does appear before the king, he chooses her to be Queen.

Mordecai overhears two eunuchs plotting to assassinate the King, and tells Esther about it. The assassination is foiled and the perpetrators killed. Although Mordecai's good deeds are recorded in the king's annals in the presence of the king, he receives no thanks and no reward for saving the King. Instead Haman gets promoted. Not just any promotion, but 2nd in charge. Have you ever been in a job where you got overlooked for something you did, and someone else received the credit due you? Mordecai did not become resentful. He stood tall with God.

**Chapter 3**Opens with the king rewarding Haman (we don't know why) with great power. Haman descended from the Amalekites, and Mordecai from the line of King Saul. They were sworn enemies of each other. Mordecai would not bow down to or give honor to Haman. When Haman learned that Mordecai was a Jew (ancient enemy) and became full of fury and wanted to kill not only Mordecai, but all the Jews. He is, what some might call, the Adolph Hitler of the Old Testament.

Haman lies to the king that a certain group of people, who live in all parts of his kingdom, disobey his laws, and by implication threatens his rule. Haman implies that he could really do the king a favor, by eliminating these people. And if the King gave him the power to do so, Haman would contribute 10,000 talents of silver to the king's treasury. Haman had grown rich in his position.

A talent of silver weighs about 90 pounds, so 10,000 talents are around 13 million ounces of silver. At today’s prices, this equals roughly $60 million. Quite an amount!

“Keep the money,” the king said to Haman, “and do with the people as you please.”

The king isn’t rejecting the money. The real meaning of this is, “If that’s what you want to do with your money, it’s fine with me. If you want to give it to me to pay for this extermination, so be it.”

The king gave Haman his signet ring. Essentially, the king is saying, “Make any law you need to accomplish the task.” Satan’s plan to eliminate God’s people is continual. We saw it with Hitler. Today we see the PLO, ISIS, IRAN, and more seeking to destroy Israel.

In verse 7, Haman wanted to select a lucky date when he could kill the Jews. So he told his officials to throw the ‘Purim’- special stones with inscriptions on them (possibly months), like dice. The way that the stones fell on the ground would show the best day and month for some act. God made sure that the Purim stones chose a date *nearly a year later*. *Proverbs 16:33* says, *“The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.”* God had a special plan to save the Jews from Haman’s plot. Haman sends out an edict about when the Jews were to die. In addition, the decree called for the confiscation of all of their property. And guess who will benefit from that? Haman and the royal treasury.

Verse 12: The edict is sent out on the eve of the Passover, which is a holiday for the Jews celebrating their deliverance from destruction at the hand of the Egyptians. Now they are faced with the same situation, i.e., destruction at the hand of Haman. By this time, don’t you think the Jews were asking this question, *“Where is God?”* They were afraid that he had abandoned them and forgotten about them?

**Chapter 4**Mordecai grieves knowing that he is responsible for the death sentence on all Jews. He appeals to Esther. Esther is alerted to the death edict. Mordecai pleads with her to *“go into the king’s presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.”* Esther says it could mean death for her to go into the king's presence uninvited. (One wonders if Esther thought of what happened to Queen Vashti when she disobeyed the king)

*v12 “When Esther’s words were reported to Mordecai, 13 he sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 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 your royal position for such a time as this?”*

Esther decides to obey and trust God and asks her people the Jews to fast and pray for 3 days.

**Chapter 5**Esther dresses in her royal clothing and the king receives her and promises to give her almost anything. Rather than making a request on behalf of her people, she instead suggests they have a meal together with Haman. At the meal, she asks that they have another meal the next day.

Haman was feeling pretty important being the only special guest at the meal with the King and Queen. When he left the meal, his anger returned as he once again saw Mordecai, who refused to stand up and bow to him.

At the suggestion of his wife and friends, he built tall 75-foot spiked pole right by his house, from which he planned to impale Mordecai after receiving permission from the king. No doubt, he thought about how each morning he could look out his window and gloat over Mordecai’s death.

**Chapter 6 - Sleepless in Susa**During the night, the king didn’t sleep well. He asked to see the royal books (probably thought they would put him to sleep). He discovered Mordecai had never been rewarded for revealing the assassination plot. Of all the 12 years of texts that could have been selected, the librarian pulls this one from the shelves to be read to the king! What a “coincidence,” right? No, God is obviously at work when the librarian picks this part of the histories.”

Morning came and he asked Haman (who was coming in to ask permission to kill Mordecai) how he might reward a certain man. Full of pride, thinking the king was talking about him (after all, he just attended a banquet with him last night), he advised the king to dress that man in royal clothes, put a crown upon his head, have him ride a royal horse on the main boulevard and proclaimed as one who has received honor from the king.

The king liked the idea and told Haman to do everything he said to Mordecai. Can you imagine the shock, horror and humiliation Haman must have suffered! He bestowed the honor on Mordecai. “Most of us, myself included, might be tempted to gloat as Haman led us around town on the king’s royal horse. Many of us would be tempted to say something to Haman like, “How do ya’ like me now, Haman? One more time around the block, Haman. A little slower, Haman. Shout a little louder, Haman.” But we can be sure that Mordecai did not fall into such a trap.” Humiliated, Haman ran home. The same wife and friends who advised him earlier now say, “You’re going down!”

**Chapter 7**Haman, the king and Esther are now at the banquet. The king once again promises to grant her request. She speaks on behalf of her people, the Jews, and says that there is man who plans to kill her and all her people. The king asks who? Esther said, “An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!”

Full of rage, the king got up and left the banquet. Haman remained to ask Esther to save his life. He was sure the king would severely punish him. As the king returns, Haman trips on and falls on top of Esther. Talk about “BAD TIMING!” The king cries out, ‘Haman is even attacking the queen while I am with her in the house.’ Haman is sent to be impaled on the very 75-foot sharpened pole from which he had planned to hang Mordecai. (v.9-10)

**Chapter 8 - From Rags to Riches**The property of Haman was given to Esther who appointed Mordecai to look after. The king gave the ring and position that previously belonged to Haman, to Mordecai. Esther reminds the king that Haman’s edict was still in effect and that the Jews would be killed. He told Mordecai that he had the signet ring and could write a law.

Mordecai’s law stated that the Jews could defend themselves on the very same day that Haman’s edict was to go into effect. It allowed the Jews to kill not only those who would try to kill them, but also the attacker’s women and children. Further, the Jews were allowed to take the property of their attackers (8:15).

**Chapter 9**A war took place (9:3) Haman’s followers were defeated. Furthermore, the dead bodies of Haman’s 10 sons were hung from the gallows. All served as a reminder of wicked Haman and what would be the consequences to any others who would come against the Jews.

Mordecai did not want his people to forget the salvation that came to them. He instituted a 2-day memorial to remind them of the victory over Haman and his followers. Purim became the name of this celebration, reminding the Jews that Haman had used Purim (game of chance) to plot their deaths.

**Chapter 10**

***3*** *Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews.*

**FAITH LESSONS**There are a number of faith lessons that we can glean from the Book of Esther and apply to ourselves:

**Your background does not hinder your future with God.**
Esther was an orphan. She may have considered herself “a nobody.” Perhaps you feel the same about yourself. God still exalted her and used her. Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen, tax collectors and one was a doctor. Your background does not determine what God can do with you. Your faith does.

**God has a plan for our lives and works in His own time and season.**
Esther’s obedience saved God’s people from genocide. Esther was placed in a royal position to assist in the delivery of God’s divine plan.

**We must stand with courage**
*“I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish” (*[***Esther 4:16***](http://www.biblestudytools.com/esther/4-16.html) *NIV).* Esther was willing to die to save her people. What a contemporary set of circumstances. Sometimes we must stand in courage, even when it is not popular to do so, and risk it all.

**Pride** – **We need to stay humble**

*Proverbs 16:18 “Pride leads to destruction, and arrogance to downfall.”* and *Rom 12:3 “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”*

**Typology**We could end the sermon here. However, as inspiring as the Book of Esther is, and as great as the faith lessons that we learn from it, there is so much more in this book! Is Jesus revealed in this book? Emphatically, 'YES!" Throughout the Old Testament, through the use of **shadow pictures** or ‘types’ (as seen through persons, places, ceremonies, etc.), God reveals his son, Jesus, who is the ‘reality’ or ‘substance’ of those shadows. In *Colossians 2*, Paul says:

*16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.17* ***These are a shadow*** *of the things that were to come;* ***the reality****, however,* ***is found in Christ****.*

Types (shadows) in the Old Testament find their fulfillment in the New Testament. One commentator referred to Old Testament ‘types’ as a “preview of upcoming events.” After his resurrection, Jesus told not only the men on the road to Emmaus but his disciples as well, that the scriptures, i.e., the Old Testament, was all about him. (Luke 24:27; John 5:39-40)

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end; and that includes everything in-between. And so it is with the book of Esther. Through the use of types or shadow pictures, God once again reveals his great plan of salvation. Let’s examine each of the main characters in this book, and see how they serve as types or shadow pictures of “upcoming events.”

**King Ahasuerus** with Heavenly Father (or more generically, Almighty God)

King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) means “prince, head, or chief”. Ahaseurus *indirectly* pictures the power of God the Father in His sovereign rule. While King Ahasuerus himself was a vain and reckless man, his position, power, actions, and commands can be likened unto God. In King Ahasuerus, we see:

* The king rules over the world (4:1); from East to West
* The king reigns from his royal throne (4:2)
* He has great wealth, and his splendor and glory are on display (4:4)
* He holds a special seven (a number of perfection) day feast “in the garden” for all who dwell in the kingdom, from the least to the greatest. All, regardless of status or position are invited to fellowship with the king.
* The garden is adorned with white and blue linen, purple material fastened to silver rings on marble pillars. Colors are those used on the High Priest’s (type of Christ) Ephod and those found on the veil of the tabernacle (entrance into God’s presence). Blue speaks of a heavenly color, white of righteousness, and linen of purity. Silver speaks of redemption, purple of royalty. It is through the redemptive blood of Christ we find ourselves connected, from which we receive our purity and righteousness.
* Precious stones speak of a finished work polished for the glory of God. Precious stones, each with a name of one of the tribes of Israel engraved in them, are found the priest’s ephod (breastplate) and also in the wall of the city of the New Jerusalem in the book of Revelation.
* Within the garden, wine was drunk from golden goblets, given graciously and in abundance. Gold speaks of divinity, of immortality.
* Just as the decrees or commandments of king Ahasuerus could not be rescinded, neither can the laws of God be nullified by another decree. God’s law is eternal and irrevocable (as is to be expected of a just God). Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33, God says, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

# Queen Vashti - means beautiful and is a shadow picture of the Jews or the nation Israel. She was bid to come to the King’s banquet, but refused. Does this not remind you of the invitation to the Great Banquet as seen in Luke 14:15-24, where invited guests made excuses not to attend? Or similarly, the parable of the marriage feast where invited guests refused to come (Matt 22:1-14)? In both situations, the master sent his servants to seek out and invite unworthy guests (Gentiles).

God’s relationship with the Jews was that of marriage. The proposal of marriage given at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19) and accepted by Israel (Ex 19:8). But she did not honor her vow. The very reason the Jews were in exile, was punishment for their idolatry and disobedience. God divorced them.

# *Jeremiah 3:8 "I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries.”*

As a result of Queen Vashti’s disobedience, the king chose another to receive her royal position, (Esther 1:19)

Israel’s rejection of God and his commandments opened the door for a new bride, i.e., the Gentile church, as seen through Esther. (Hosea 2:23; [Romans 2:28-29](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+2%3A28-29&version=ESV); [Galatians 3:29](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+3%3A29&version=ESV); [Acts 15:7-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+15%3A7-9&version=ESV); [Colossians 3:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A11&version=ESV); [Acts 28:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+28%3A28&version=ESV); [John 10:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+10%3A16&version=ESV))

### The bride of Christ (spiritual Israel) is all who call upon his name. [*Romans 10:13*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+10%3A13&version=ESV) *“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

**Mordecai** a shadow picture of Jesus Christ (as Savior)

**1.** He adopts Esther, an orphan, and shows his mercy (Esther 2:7)
Although we were “orphans” (in the world without hope and afar from God), Christ shows His mercy in receiving us into the family of God by faith:

John 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

Eph 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9not by works, so that no one can boast. 12remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

**2.** As Mordecai was faithful to the King and pleased him, so Christ was faithful to His Father (Esther 2:21-23)
Mordecai foils an assassination plot to kill the king. His deeds are “recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.”

*John 8:9 “The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”*

The book of Malachi reminds us that the King honors those who honor Him; the deeds of God’s people are recorded:

*Malachi 3:16* *Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.*

**3.** Mordecai was despised, so was Christ (Esther 3:5)

Is 53: 3 He [Jesus] was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**4.** Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman (Esther 3:2)
Jesus refused to worship Satan when tempted.

*Matt 4:8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” 10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”*

**5.** Mordecai’s perceived lack of respect for Haman was seen as disobedience and threatening to the king’s command (Esther 3:8)
The Pharisees & Herodians were threatened by Jesus, ***Mark 3:6****Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.*

**6.** Esther 4:1, “When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;”
Compare this to the Messianic Psalm 69:11: *“I made sackcloth also my garment; and I became a proverb to them.”* Psalm 69 is quoted in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and also in Acts and Romans. Jesus himself quotes Psalm 69 as being about himself in John 15:25 But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'

Mordecai “cried with a loud and a bitter cry.” *Matthew 27:46, “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Matthew 27:50, “Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.”* (see also Mark 13:34 & 37 and Luke 23:46)

**7.** Mordecai’s rode through the city as an honor from the king (Esther 6:7-10)
Jesus had a triumphant entry to Jerusalem on the final week of his life

*John 12:12**The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.* ***13*** *So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is* ***he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King*** *of Israel!”*

**8.** Mordecai sent swift messengers to every part of the kingdom to deliver the proclamation about the Jews’ salvation. Esther 8:9
Jesus Christ sends missionaries to every part of the world to deliver the message of the gospel of salvation.

*Mark 16:15 “He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”*

**9.** Note also how in Esther 8:17*, “And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king’s commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.”*Doesn’t this sound exactly like what happened at the beginning of the New Testament era starting at Pentecost in 33 A.D. (Acts 2) when the Gospel of Salvation through Jesus Christ was first proclaimed? When the Gospel was proclaimed 3000 people became Christians and they rejoiced and broke bread with one another.

**10.** Mordecai triumphed over his enemies.
Jesus triumphed over the enemy death and hell through His resurrection and glorification.

**11.**Mordecai was promoted to second in rank to King Xerxes (Esther 10:2-3)
Jesus was exalted to the right hand of the Father (Acts 2:33; Acts 5:31; Eph 1:20-23; Heb 1:3; Heb 2:9; 1 Peter 1:17; Rev 4:11; Rev 5:11-13; Rev 7:12, Rev 19:1)

**Queen Esther** - a shadow picture of the body of believers (from both Jew and Gentile; the true “Jews” or the eternal Israel)

**1.** Esther is an orphan, but is adopted by Mordecai.

John 13:17-18 “But you know him [Holy Spirit), for he lives with you and will be[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26686c)] in you. **18** I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

**2.** Esther found favor from the King (2:17)

*Eph 2:8-9**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—* ***9*** *not by works, so that no one can boast.*

**3.** The King made Esther his bride and set a crown upon her head (2:17)
We are the bride of Christ and will be given crowns: imperishable crown (1 Corinthians 9:24-25); crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8); crown of glory that will never fade away (1 Peter 5:4); Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown (Rev 2:10).

**4.** The King found pleasure in giving that which was his, to his bride (5:3)Our father, the King, does so likewise: *Luke 12:32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”*

**5.** Esther’s beauty surpassed all others. God has given the Church His beauty, the Righteousness of Christ Himself, and as we are accepted "in the beloved", we will be presented to Christ

*Eph 5:27 “and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”*

**6.** Esther became married to one whose title was "King of Kings" (2:17)

# *Revelation 19:7 “Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.”*

**7.** The king gave a great wedding banquet for his bride. (2:18)
This is a shadow picture of the great wedding banquet God has in store for his bride, the church (Rev 19-6-9)

**8.** It was against the Persian "law" for Esther to approach the King. But, she was accepted on the ground of pure "grace". The king beheld her wearing the royal apparel that he himself had given her (ch 5:1)
We too are accepted on the ground of the grace of God in Christ, when we appear before God wearing the royal robes that He Himself has given us.

**9.** Esther went into the king’s presence walking by faith (“if I perish, I perish”). She acted as any faithful believer in Christ should, humbly trusting in God’s mercy alone to save her.

*Hebrews 4:16 “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

*Ephesians 3: 12 “In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”*

**10.** Esther prays & intercedes on behalf of her people for their salvation. Jesus intercedes for us and we (the church) are instructed to do likewise

*Heb 7:25 “Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”*

*1 Tim 2: 1-4 I urge, then, first of all, that* ***petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people****—* ***2*** *for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.* ***3*** *This is good, and pleases God our Savior,* ***4 who wants all people to be saved*** *and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

**11.** The 3-day fast and prayer occurs during Passover. It shadows the events that occurred during the Passover week of Jesus death and resurrection.

* Haman betrayed the Jews by casting a lot to determine their death on Nisan 13th (3:12). Judas betrays Jesus same day.
* Esther fast began on the 14th day of Nissan, which is also the beginning of Passover. Christ’s death occurred on the 14th of Nissan.
* End of the fast was on the third day – 16th of Nissan. Christ rose on the 16th of Nisan.
* Salvation comes to her people after three days (compare to Jesus death and resurrection).

**12.** Esther is given seven maidens to serve her. Earlier we saw a feast of seven days, we saw seven eunuchs, then we saw seven advisors, now we see seven maidens. Seven is the number of perfection and completion, the number of God, and everything is working out according to His plan.

Paul reminds us, Rom. 8:28 “*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*

After Haman’s death, the name of God’s people are written to protect them and preserve them:

Esther 8:8 Now write another decree in the king's name in behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king's signet ring—for no document written in the king's name and sealed with his ring can be revoked."

Rev. 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

**Hegai** – a shadow picture of the Holy Spirit.

***Esther 2:8 “…Esther also was taken to the king’s palace, into the care of Hegai the custodian of the women.***

Hegai was the eunuch in charge of the King’s harem. Esther received twelve months of purification with the oil of myrrh and sweet odors. Hegai is a type of the Holy Spirit that anoints and purifies the believers, and who makes it possible for them to come into the presence of the King, God Himself.

# *2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV) 21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

# Oil was a symbol of consecration – of being made holy, so as to come into God’s presence and serve him (Exodus 30).

*Esther 2:15. 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. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.*

Unlike the other women of the harem, Esther took nothing more than what Hegai advised. Likewise, believers who have been sanctified by the anointing and indwelling of the Holy Spirit require nothing more than that which the Holy Spirit provides in order to come into the presence of the King.

[*Ephesians 2:8-9*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2%3A8-9&version=NIV) *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.*

**Haman** - a shadow picture of Satan

No one exemplifies the character and nature of the devil in the book of Esther as does Haman. Let’s examine the details of Haman as a shadow picture of Satan:

**1)** **His Name -** Queen Esther refers to him as “*The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman.” (7:6).* These words are the same exact words used throughout the Bible to describe Satan (I Peter 5:8; Matthew 13:39; Matthew 13:38)

**2) Haman’s Power**

*Esther 3:1 “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 is the chief prince of the King. He has power, position, and honor. So too, was Lucifer. Lucifer is one of three archangels mentioned in Scripture. He was called the 'Son of the Morning.'

**3)** **Haman’s Pride**

Like Satan, Haman was full of pride and wanted people to bow down to him (3:2). Lucifer became prideful. He wanted to become like the Most High. Isaiah 14 reveals the fall of Lucifer from the heights of heaven, which resulted in his status as the creature that he is today. Lucifer's name, 'son of the morning,' was given to a far more deserving individual, the Son of God. Jesus Christ is called the 'Bright and Morning Star' (Revelation 22:16)

Jesus is in the wilderness and being tempted by the devil:

*Matt 4:8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.* ***9*** *“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”*

*Esther 3:5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged.*

**4) Haman, like Satan, hated Mordecai and the Jews**

Like Satan, Haman seeks to destroy the people of God. *1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

Know that God has not left us defenseless.

*Eph 6:10-12**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.* ***11*** *Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.* ***12*** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

**5) Haman, like Satan, is the “Accuser” and a Liar** (3:8)

Haman deceives the king, “You know King, “I’m one of the good guys! I’m looking out for your best interest! Ester 3:8 *“it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them.”*

*2 Cor 11:14 “for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”*

**6) Haman asked for permission**

*Esther 3:9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them…”*

[*Luke 22:31–32*](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2022.31%E2%80%9332) *“Jesus says, “Simon, Simon,* ***Satan has asked*** *to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.” (see also Job 1)*

**7) Haman betrayed Mordecai and the Jews with Silver**

*Esther 3:9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and* ***I will give ten thousand talents of silver*** *to the king’s administrators for the royal treasury.”*

*Luke 22:3-4* ***“****Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.****4*** *And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus.*

*Matt 26:15 “5 and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver.”*

**8) Haman was stripped of his powers, and like Satan, fell and was brought down.**

Lucifer became prideful, believing that he deserved more than what he already had. He wanted to become like the Most High. But God does not share His glory, nor does He permit another to receive worship. So before Lucifer had a chance to make his move, he was removed from the presence of God. Cast out of heaven like a bolt of lightning, Lucifer was stripped of his beauty, his position, and his rights to heaven.

**9) Haman and those who followed him are defeated and killed.** (7:9-10, 9:5) **Likewise, Satan is defeated**:

# *Revelation 20:10 (NIV) 10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

# *Rev 20:15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

**10) Haman’s title is taken from him and given to another more worthy**, i.e., Mordecai.

*Esther 8:2**The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai.*

**Lucifer's name, 'son of the morning,' was given to a far more deserving individual, the Son of God.** Jesus Christ is called the 'Bright and Morning Star' (Revelation 22:16).

**11) The means of execution proved to be the undoing of Haman and Satan** (5:14)

Just as Haman is defeated on the gallows he built for Mordecai, so does Christ use the very weapon that his enemy devised to destroy Him and His spiritual seed.

For the cross, by which Satan planned to destroy the Messiah, was the very means through which Christ

*“having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.* ***15*** *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” (Colossians 2:14-15).*

Just as Haman was hanged on the gallows he built for Mordecai, so the devil was crushed by the cross he erected to destroy Christ.”

**12) The Jews smote all of their enemies by the sword. In the same way, utilizing the sword of the spirit (the Word of God), always causes the enemy’s defeat;** Esther 9:5; Revelation 12:11.

**Conclusion**
Remember Mordecai’s words he spoke to Esther: Esth. 4:14 “…who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

Paul speaks to us: Rom. 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Believe it or not, we have just scratched the surface of seeing God’s plan of salvation through His Son revealed in the Book of Esther. I hope your eyes were opened today and that you discovered new insights. Every book in the Old Testament tells the same truth, i.e., *“****Salvation******is*** *found in no one else, for* ***there******is*** *no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”* Acts 4:12 And that name is, Jesus. And his promise to us:

***“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne” Revelation 3:21***

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