

BIBLE CHARACTER – SPOTLIGHT SERIES

Esther - A Woman of Courage

A FEW NOTES ON THE BOOK OF ESTHER:

1. The author of the Book of Esther is _____.
2. God, _____, God's _____, and Prayer are not _____ in the Book or Esther nor is the _____ Kingdom.
3. It is very clear that _____ is at work in the story of Esther and though not mentioned, He is the _____ character.
4. The Book of Esther is one of the only _____ books in the Bible named after a _____ highlighting her _____.
5. Esther is never _____ in the New Testament and is the _____ Old Testament book _____ represented in the Dead Sea _____.
6. The Book of Esther is a _____ story. It is placed with the Book of _____ and the Book of _____ in the Bible due to it being part of the historical account of God's _____ during the time of their _____ in the Persian empire.
7. The Esther story, however, is set over _____ years _____ the Babylonian _____ of God's people from their land.
8. The story takes place after _____ returned to Jerusalem to _____ the walls.
9. Many of God's people were still in _____ and spread out in the Persian provinces from _____ to _____ under the reign of King Ahasuerus (also known as King Xerxes), who controlled _____ provinces.

ESTHER'S FAMILY HISTORY:

1. Esther is the young _____ of Mordecai. Her father, _____, was Mordecai's uncle (Esther 2:7,15).
2. Esther was _____ as both her parents had died.
3. Mordecai took her and raised her as his own _____ (Esther 2:7,15).
4. Cousin Mordecai was a Jew from the tribe of _____. His great grandfather was _____, the father of _____ who became Israel's first king (Esther 2:5 & 1 Samuel 9:1).

5. Esther and Mordecai were still in _____ in the Persian empire although many went back to _____.

How interesting to learn that Esther was a descendent of the first _____ of Israel and that she would become a _____ herself, although to a foreign king.

HADASSAH (A.K.A. ESTHER) THE PERSON:

1. Hadassah's true Hebrew name means "_____ tree."
2. Esther is known to mean "_____" and became her Persian name.
3. She was an orphan who was _____, well cared for, and deeply _____ by Cousin Mordecai as noted previously (Esther 2:7,11).
4. Esther was _____ and had a _____ figure (Esther 2:7).
5. Esther was a _____ and _____ daughter (Esther 2:10, 20).
6. Esther was _____ and won the _____ of others (Esther 2:9,15,17).

ESTHER'S CHARACTER:

1. Selfless and _____ - she was a self-_____ woman, risked her life for others (Esther 4:16).
2. Humble and _____ - she _____ her Cousin Mordecai (Esther 2:10,20, 4:8,16).
3. Tactful and _____ - when going before the king and _____ and _____ she would make her request (Esther 5:8)

Meaning of tact: "a keen sense of what to _____ or _____ in order to maintain good _____ with others or avoid _____."

4. Courageous - although she was _____ at first, knowing the law about going before the king, yet she risked her _____ (Esther 4:10-16).
5. Patriotic - she had a _____ for her people and _____ for their lives (Esther 8:3-6).

ESTHER'S PREPARATION - INWARD AND OUTWARD:

1. Esther was being _____ for this time of her life _____ before she entered the king's palace (Jeremiah 1:5, 29:11, Esther 2:10, 20).
2. She not only was _____ to her cousin but also _____ took suggestions from Hegai, the king's eunuch, who was in charge of her (Esther 2:15).
3. Esther was already very _____ and had a _____ figure.

4. She would still receive _____ months of beauty treatments including _____ months of oil of myrrh and _____ months of perfumes and cosmetics. Imagine a whole year of _____ days!!
5. Esther also received _____ food.
6. She was assigned _____ special female _____ from the king's palace and moved into the _____ place of the harem (Esther 2:8, 9).

ESTHER'S PURPOSE AND CALLING:

1. Esther's purpose was not just to become a royal _____ and live out her life in _____ and _____ as some fairy tale of a life. Her purpose was _____ by far!
2. Her ultimate purpose was to _____ her people, God's chosen people, who were still in _____ in the Persian Mede empire from _____.
3. It was through her _____, courage, and her willingness to _____ her life that fulfilled God's _____ plan at that time.
4. Even though relief and deliverance could surely have come from _____ place, it was God's plan that she would be the _____ to come to her royal position for such a _____ as that! (Esther 4:14)

QUESTIONS TO ASK OURSELVES IN LIGHT OF ESTHER'S LIFE IN THIS HISTORICAL STORY:

1. What about us? What kind of _____ can we acquire like Esther's with the help of God?
2. What about our _____ for our day?
3. Will we choose comfort over _____?
4. Will we forsake _____ behaviors for denying ourselves for the sake of others?
5. Will we _____ and _____ for others?
6. When circumstances come, that we have no _____ over nor have a _____ in the matter, will we be willing to do or say whatever it takes to fulfill what God's _____ is for us for the sake of His Kingdom regardless of the _____?
7. Will we seek His _____ and obey them for the greater good for _____?