



Owasso First Assembly

Pastor Bruce McCarty

June 1, 2025

1. Jesus—The Perfect Hero
2. Joshua—The Courageous Hero
3. Ruth—The Loyal Hero
4. Daniel—The Uncompromising Hero
5. David—The Conflicted Hero

ESTHER—THE STRATEGIC HERO

Vault verse for this series: Philippians 3:17 (ESV) *Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.*

1. Esther's story requires thoughtful process to understand accurately.
2. Her name is mentioned about 55 times in this book. Her name is not recorded anywhere else in the Bible.
3. The story occurs around 450 B.C.
4. She is a shining example of courage, wisdom, composure, and intelligence.
5. God's name is not mentioned in the book but His actions fill the pages of this story.

God is at work even when not explicitly visible from our perspective.

1. Esther was born into a dark and godless society

Esther 2:5–7 (NIV) *⁵ Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, ⁶ who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah. ⁷ Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.*

1. Esther was born into exile. The Babylonian exile lasted about 47 years.
2. She was an orphan.
3. She was a beautiful woman. (This is the primary reference of her in chapter 2.)
4. She was selected to be brought into the harem of Xerxes, also called Ahasuerus.
5. King Ahasuerus delighted in displaying his wealth and power, yet was a very insecure man.
6. Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her. Esther 2:15
7. Esther was made Queen. 2:17
8. Esther did not reveal her nationality as she was instructed by Mordecai.

2. Esther was faced with a disturbing situation

1. Mordecai refused to bow before Haman which caused Haman to be enraged.
2. Haman plotted for the murder of Mordecai and all the Jews.
3. Haman was an Amalekite, a descendant of Agag. The Amalekites had been intense enemies of the Jews. God had command the Israelites to destroy them but Saul allowed Agag to live.
4. Haman used the pur (casting of lots) to determine when the Jews would be destroyed.

Esther 3:13 (NIV) *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 children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.*

5. Mordecai challenges Esther to action and Esther calls for all the Jews to fast and pray.

3. Esther responds with daring faith

1. Her response is I will approach the King if it costs me my life.
2. Esther displays great wisdom and intelligence in addressing the situation.
3. She used her circumstances for good.

****Ahasuerus is having trouble sleeping and calls for the record of his reign to read and reads about Mordecai exposing an assassination attempt and asks what was done to recognize him.****

4. Esther presents herself to the King. 5:2.
5. The King is pleased and offers her up to half his Kingdom.
6. Esther slowly proceeds with her plan by inviting the King and Haman to a banquet.
7. At that banquet she asks for another banquet, much to the delight of King Ahasuerus and Haman.
8. Then Esther asks for her life to be spared and her people also and reveals Haman as the perpetrator.
9. Haman is executed and Mordecai receives his place of honor as second in command.
10. A new decree is signed that allows the Jews to defend themselves.
11. A new annual feast is established called Purim.

LESSONS TO LEARN FROM THE LIFE OF ESTHER:

1. Esther demonstrates the value of cultivated courage, strength, and leadership.
2. Be sensitive to seize the moment at just the right time.
3. Esther's beauty was more than her outward appearance. Her integrity, humility, and courage made her attractive.
4. Esther trusted God even when she did not know the outcome of her actions.
5. Esther recognized the power of unity in prayer.
6. God used Esther to preserve the Jewish people and provide salvation through Jesus.