

Passage: Esther

Date: 2.17.202

Discovered:

- King Ahasuerus held a feast for all of Susa, lasting 7 days, was a display of wealth.
- On 7th day, King Ahasuerus commanded his wife, Queen Vashti appear in her crown to display her beauty. She refused & made the King angry.
 - ↳ King's advisors told him he should put out a royal decree removing the Queen so another could be chosen.
 - ↳ Why? So as not to encourage women to disobey their husbands.
- Beautiful virgins through out the land were placed in care of Hegai & given beauty treatments. The King would choose one for his new Queen.
- Esther, a Jew, niece of Mordecai was chosen. She gained favor with Hegai - given best place.
- She kept her heritage to herself.
- After 12 months, she went before the King, she took only what Hegai recommended - one chance to impress.
 - ↳ Esther won King's favor & love. Esther was made Queen.
- Mordecai discovered a plot to assassinate the King & told Esther. It was prevented.
- Haman was made 2nd in Command of kingdom, but Mordecai would not bow to him.
- Out of anger, Haman paid the King 10,000 talents of silver to issue a decree that on a certain day all the Jews would be destroyed.
- When they heard, the Jews mourned & fasted.
- Mordecai begged Esther to go before the King & beg favor for her people.
 - ↳ It was a risk for if one went before the King unwelcomed, they would be put to death.
- Mordecai - do not think you will be immune/exempt, you were likely put in your position to save us.
- Esther told all the Jews to fast for 3 days & then I will go before the King regardless of the consequences.
- After 3 days, Esther went before the King & was granted favor. She asked the King & Haman to join her for a feast that night. At the feast, she asked them to return tomorrow.
 - ↳ The King was willing to give her half the kingdom.
- Haman went home & bragged about his honors, but Mordecai's refusal to bow was a thorn.
- King wanted to honor Mordecai, asked Haman to do it: lead Mordecai through streets on a royal horse, giving honor.
- At the 2nd feast, Esther revealed Haman had sold her people to be killed. She only wanted her life & that of her people.
- King had Haman hung on gallow made for Mordecai.
- The King gave Esther the house of Haman & gave Mordecai his signet ring.
- King had a new edict issued saying that the Jews could defend themselves.
- Jews defended themselves against their enemies & even had help.
- Purim would be celebrated every year on 14th & 15th of Adar to celebrate the days the Jews got relief from their enemies.

Help me to remember:

You put people in places & situations on purpose to further your plan.

Lord, I ask that

I am brave enough to answer Your call and do what I am asked by You.

Heavenly Father, I am thankful for...
the reminder that those in distress have a voice if only they are brave enough to speak up!