

welcome to

sierra community church





Esther

for such a time as this

Unique Book

-God is *NEVER* mentioned!

-“*Coincidences*” and
Ironic Reversals



Villain: Haman

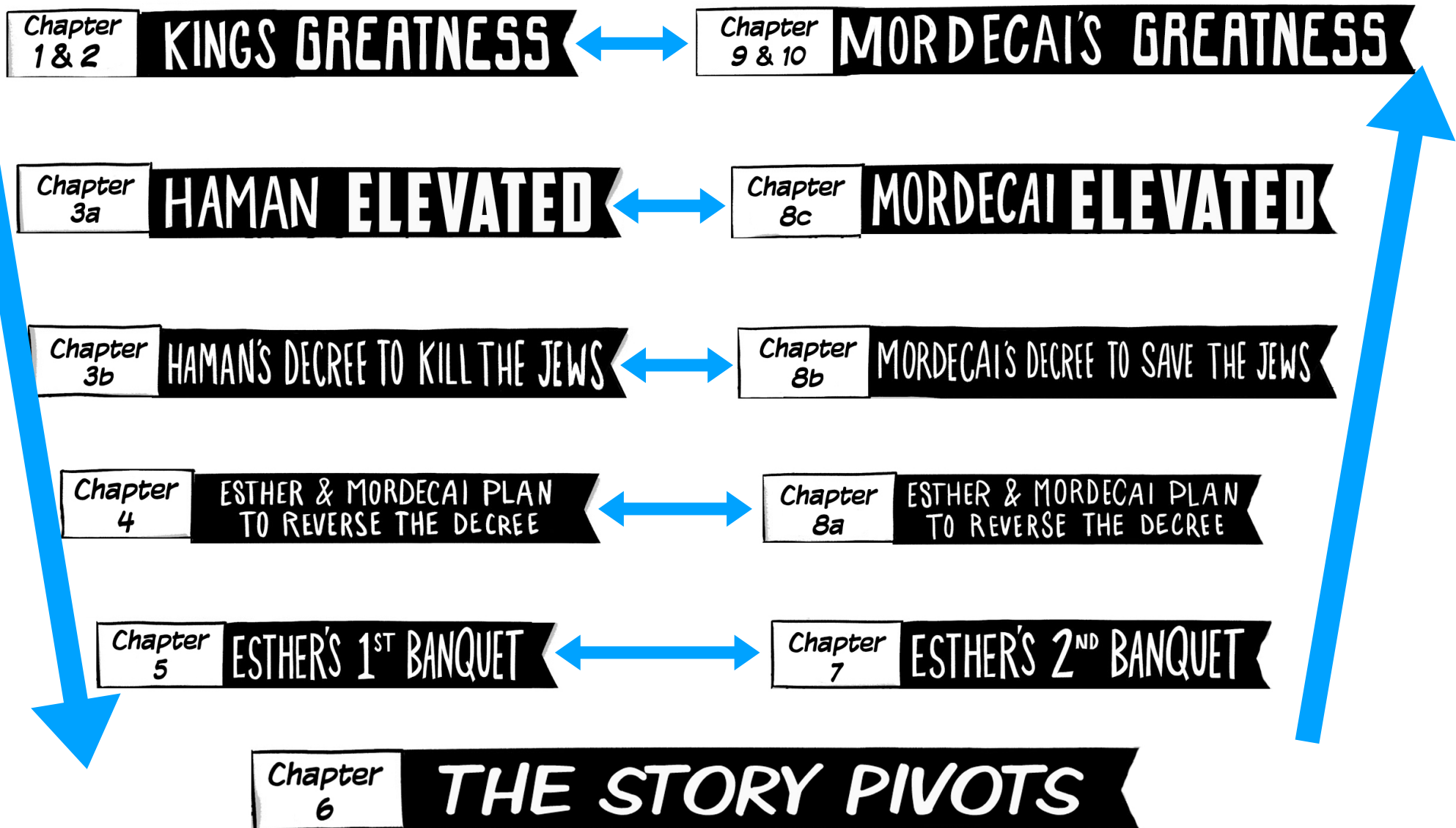
King: Xerxes

Queen: Esther

Hero: Mordecai



Structure/Plot of Esther (chiastic structure)



Esther 7:1-10; 9:20-22



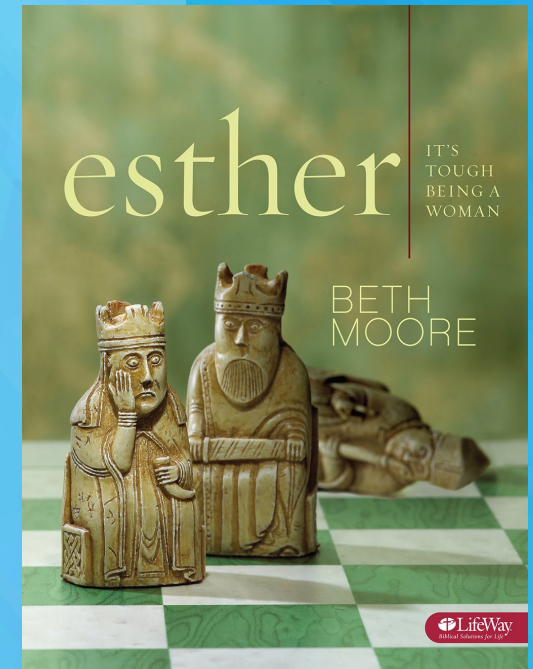
So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet, ² and as they were drinking wine on the second day, the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

Esther 7:1-10; 9:20-22



³ Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, & if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request. ⁴ For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.”

Brilliantly, she left out Haman's identity in verse 3 so she could put a bow and arrow in Xerxes' hands before she pointed him at the target. Had he known from the beginning that the culprit was his own right hand man, the king might have protected him. Instead, he'd virtually indicted him by the time she identified him. What could he do but follow through? And by the time she'd raised his ire through the palace roof, why wouldn't he want to?



Esther,
by Beth Moore
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Esther 7:1-10; 9:20-22



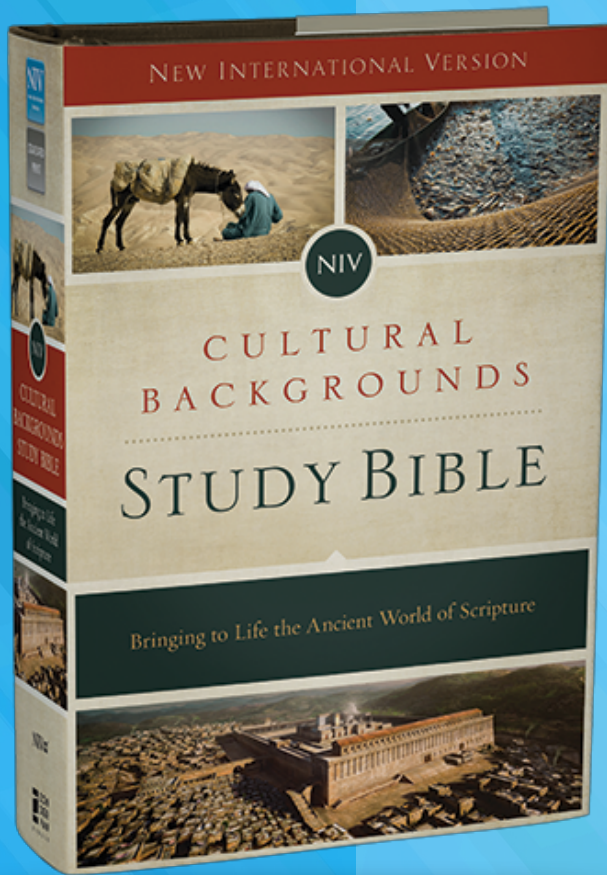
⁵ King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?” ⁶ Esther said, “An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. ⁷ The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden.

Esther 7:1-10; 9:20-22



⁸ Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, “Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?” As soon as the word left the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face.

Haman had committed an egregious error. According to some authors, touching the king's wife was penalized with death. In Assyrian law, no man was allowed to draw within more than seven paces of a member of the king's harem.



Esther 7:1-10; 9:20-22



⁹Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, “A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits stands by Haman’s house. He had it set up for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.” The king said, “Impale him on it!”

¹⁰So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king’s fury subsided.

Esther 7:1-10; 9:20-22



9:20-22 Mordecai wrote these things down and sent letters to all the Jews in all the provinces, both near and far, of King Xerxes. ²¹ He made it a rule that Jews keep the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as special days each and every year. ²² They are the days on which the Jews finally put to rest the troubles with their enemies.

Experiencing REST in your Relationship with God

In a book full of tension, Esther 9:22 tells us that Jews finally experienced a time of rest. The same keys that brought Esther and her people rest are available to us.

Rely on God's truth

Rely on God's truth

Esther 4:14 *“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place”*

Rely on God's truth

Psalm 119:160 *All your
words are true; all your
righteous laws are eternal.*

Rely on God's truth

John 8:32 & 17:17 *“your word is truth”; “Then you will know the truth, & the truth will set you free.”*

Endure challenges with prayer and patience.

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Esther 4:16 *“Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day.”*

Endure challenges with prayer and patience.

Philippians 4:6&7 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Speak up on God's behalf when you have the opportunity.

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Esther 7:4 *For I and my people
have been sold to be destroyed,
killed and annihilated.*

Speak up on God's behalf when you have the opportunity.

Psalm 32:3 *When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away through
my groaning all day long.*

Speak up on God's behalf when you have the opportunity.

Act 2:14 *Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.*

Trust your relationship with the King.

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Esther 7:4 *On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace... Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.*

Trust your relationship with the King.

John 14:1 *Don't let your
hearts be troubled. Trust in
God, and trust also in me.*