

## **SUPERBOOK**

Episode #205P

"Queen Esther"

Written by  
Sindy McKay

CBN APPROVED TAKE-AWAY: "Be (brave and) ready to do good things. Be the best/greatest for the benefit of others."

SYNOPSIS: Joy is challenged to stand up to a classmate who questions Joy's selection of a new girl at school to join a special club. If Joy pushes for the new girl she could lose her own position in the club. Superbook whisks the kids off to meet Queen Esther, who is facing a moral crisis of her own. As Joy befriends the Queen, she learns that her own dilemma pales in comparison to the life and death choice Queen Ester is grappling with. At the moment of truth, Ether shows her true colors and stands up for what is right, even though it could mean death. She is rewarded for her bravery, protects a nation, and with that Joy returns home full of the resilience and fortitude it will take to do the right thing in her situation at school.

Story Edited by  
Sean Roche

Anicon Draft 4-15-12

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### REGULARS

1. Chris
2. Joy
3. Gizmo
4. Superbook

### GUESTS

5. Esther
6. Haman
7. King's Servant #1
8. King Xerxes
9. Janice
10. Bonnie
11. Servant Overseer
12. Hatach
13. Friend of Haman #1
14. Friend of Haman #2
15. Young Servant
16. Moredcai

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FADE IN:

**EXT. OUTSIDE THE GATES OF KING XERXES' PALACE - DUSK**

In the shadows we see the backs of TWO MEN (friends of Haman) kneeling. Towering over them is HAMAN, in princely raiment. The moonlight casts an eerie glow on Haman's face.

1       HAMAN  
Since the King's friend, Mordecai,  
refuses to bow to me, let us cast  
lots and they will determine when  
his fate will be sealed.

The men cast lots.

CLOSER on Haman - he picks up the lot and nods ominously looking it in his hand.

2       HAMAN (NKJV 3:6)(CONT'D)  
So be it. On the twelfth month,  
Mordecai and all his people - all  
the Jews - throughout the kingdom  
of Xerxes -

CLOSE on Haman's face - an evil smile on his lips.

3       HAMAN (CONT'D)  
- will be destroyed.

DISSOLVE TO:

**THE THRONE HALL OF KING XEREX - LATER THAT NIGHT**

KING XERXES sits on his throne. Mordecai approaches.

8       KING XERXES  
Ah! Haman! Good to see you, my  
friend!

Haman approaches, bowing his head.

9       HAMAN  
If it please the king... I have  
disturbing news.

Haman eyes the Servant suspiciously - then leans in to speak  
confidentially to the King. King's Servant #1 also leans in.

10       HAMAN (3:8) (CONT'D)  
There is a certain people scattered  
amongst all the provinces of your  
kingdom;

Haman shoots a warning look at the Servant and he pulls back.

11       HAMAN (NKJV 3:8) (CONT'D)  
(Continues to the King)  
Their laws are different from all  
other people's - and they do not  
keep the king's laws.

CLOSER ON HAMAN AND KING Xerxes

13       HAMAN (NLT 3:8) (CONT'D)  
So it is not in the king's interest  
to let them live.

The servant reacts with a look.

14       KING XERXES  
What would you have me do, Haman?

15       HAMAN (NKJV 3:9)  
Let a decree be written that they  
be destroyed.

The Servant steps forward as though he'll protest...

KING'S SERVANT  
(A gasp)

CLOSER ON THE KING AND HAMAN

18       KING XERXES  
I... I trust you, Haman. If these  
people are a threat let the decree  
be written - and sealed.

The King removes his official ring to Haman. (Esther 3:10) -

PUSH IN ON HAMAN as he does a toady head bow but we see him smiling triumphantly looking at the ring out of the corner of his eye.

FADE OUT.

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

EXT. VALLEYVIEW SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

**INT. VALLEYVIEW SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - MORNING**

FOLLOW WITH GIZMO as he whizzes around the gym in ROBO-ROLLER mode, shooting streamers and balloons from a "party cannon" attachments that is protruding on the arm from his chest. <WHOOSH-BOOM-POP-POW> He reaches the end of the room, does a fancy spin, and poses.

19 GIZMO  
Who-hoo! Ta da!

WIDE ON THE GYM - now festively decorated for a school dance. THREE GIRLS who have been watching cheer in delight!

20 THREE GIRLS (FACES AWAY FROM CAMERA)  
<Overlapping ad lib cheers!>

CAMERA PANS OVER to find JOY hanging balloons with JANICE, an "in crowd" girl and president of the Girls' Leadership Club.

21 JANICE  
As *president* of the Girls' Leadership Club, I want to thank you for bringing Gizmo in to help us decorate for the dance, Joy.

22 JOY  
(big smile)  
You're welcome!

CLOSER on Janice and Joy.

23 JANICE  
(with a giggle)  
Too bad you can't nominate him for club membership.

24 JOY  
What do you mean?

25 JANICE  
Well, you've been a member for 6 months now, so you get to recommend another student for membership.

The BELL RINGS. Janice swoops up her schoolbooks to leave.

26 JANICE (CONT'D)  
You can make your recommendation at the meeting after school today.

She hurries off. Joy stands for a moment with a pleased smile on her face. Then she sweeps up her own books and heads for the door as we...

WIPE TO:

**INT. A SCHOOL HALLWAY - SHORTLY**

Joy ENTERS FRAME and opens her locker. A few kids pass as she collects her book. She closes her locker door to reveal we now see - DOWN THE HALL ABOUT THIRTY FEET - BONNIE, a girl in an electric wheelchair, is rolling towards her, checking her wheelchair gps.

27 JOY  
Need some help?

Joy heads for her as BONNIE rolls to Joy. The wheel chair has our "SB Future look." There is a small display screen touch pad on both armrests. She manipulates one pad as she jokes;

28 BONNIE  
Yeah. Unfortunately, I don't have the school's layout in my GPS yet.  
(smiling up at Joy)  
So I'm hopelessly lost!

29 JOY/BONNIE  
<Lightly laugh together>

Bonnie looks down and taps the touch pad.

30 BONNIE  
I'm looking for room 12.

31 JOY  
Oh. Just up the hall. I'll show  
you!

JOY starts to walk and Bonnie rolls along beside her.

32 BONNIE  
I'm Bonnie Scott.

33 JOY  
Joy Pepper. You're new, huh?

34 BONNIE  
I've been here a week. But you're  
the first person who's actually  
talked to me!

They arrive at room 12 and Joy opens the door.

35 JOY  
Wow - algebra. I'm still struggling  
with Math!

36 BONNIE  
(Encouraging smile)  
I'd be happy to help you with your  
homework - any time! See you soon,  
Joy!

Bonnie rolls in. As Joy turns to head back to her own class  
she sees Janice just a few feet away (she has been watching  
Joy.) Joy hurries over.

37 JOY  
(Excited)  
Janice! I found the girl I'm going  
to submit for club membership  
today!

38 JANICE  
(With slight disdain)  
You mean that girl in the  
wheelchair?

39 JOY  
(Surprised by this)  
Huh? Well... yes.

40 JANICE

She's not right for our club, Joy.  
She can't do service projects or  
cheer at the games... or *anything*.

41 JOY

Sure she can.

42 JANICE

Hm... (then) - Well, I think  
submitting her name would be a bad  
idea for you, Joy.

TRUCK IN ON JOY, looking troubled as she looks down...  
beat... then back up at Janice and we

TIME DISSOLVE:

**EXT. THE SCHOOL GYM - ESTABLISHING SHOT - LATE AFTERNOON**

43 CHRIS (O.C.)

So what are you going to do, Joy?  
Your Club meeting's about to start.

**EXT. GYM DOOR - CONTINUOUS**

Chris and Gizmo stand with Joy who paces, nervously, lost in  
thought.

44 JOY

I don't know. Janice really  
doesn't want me to submit Bonnie.  
And she is the president.

45 CHRIS

That not right, Joy. You should  
tell her.

Joy stops pacing and glares at them.

46 JOY

No way! Janice could have me  
kicked out of the club. I can't  
stand up to her. I'm not that  
brave.

SUPERBOOK (SFX) - Superbook rises from Chris' backpack.



47 JOY/CHRIS  
SUPERBOOK!

48 GIZMO  
I think I'll just head back into  
the gym and do some more  
decorating...

But the Superbook EFFECT envelops the kids and Gizmo before  
he can leave and we

49 JOY/CHRIS/GIZMO  
Whoaaaa

CUT TO:

### **SUPERBOOK VORTEX - CONTINUOUS**

The kids travel along.

50 SUPERBOOK (V.O.)  
I am taking you to meet someone who  
found the courage to speak up for  
what was right no matter what the  
cost.

CUT TO:

### **INT. KING XERXES' BANQUET HALL**

Gizmo, Joy, and Chris MATERIALIZE in the back of a group of  
newly arrived servants (slaves). A tall, muscular SERVANT  
OVERSEER stands in front of the group, looking grim.  
HATACH, (HAY'-TACK) the Queen's favorite servant, is beside  
him.

CLOSER ON KIDS & GIZMO - Gizmo checks his wrist chronometer  
and informs the kids;

51 GIZMO  
(whisper)  
It appears we are now in ancient  
Persia - 5th century BC.

52 SERVANT OVERSEER (O.C.)  
Silence!

Gizmo slaps his hand over his own mouth with a <CLANG.>

53     SERVANT OVERSEER (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
You have been brought here to serve  
King Xerxes - ruler of 127  
provinces from India to Ethiopia  
(NKJV 1:1).

Our heroes try to quietly tiptoe away from the group. But the large SERVANT OVERSEER is suddenly right in front of them, glowering down at them in disapproval.

54     SERVANT OVERSEER (CONT'D)  
You! You will follow my command  
and do as you are told.

Chris and Joy share a worried look as the Servant Overseer looks to Hatach and instructs;

55     SERVANT OVERSEER (CONT'D)  
Hatach - take the female to the  
Women's Quarters.

Hatach bows and takes Joy by the arm. Joy shoots a concerned look at Chris as Hatach ushers her off.

JOY  
NO! CHRIS!!!!

Before Chris can say anything, the Servant Overseer grabs him by the arm and shoves Gizmo ahead of him.

CHRIS  
JOY!

GIZMO  
Let me go! Please!

56     SERVANT OVERSEER  
And I will take these two to work  
with me at the Chariot House.

WIDER - Chris and Joy look back at each other in concern as they are led off in opposite directions.

WIPE TO:

#### **EXT. THE CHARIOT HOUSE - DAY**

(STAGING GEOGRAPHY NOTE - Though we won't see this geography in this scene - it's here for ref and later scenes.

The stables are housed a building about two hundred yards from the palace. There is a road that leads from the stables to the palace. Half way to the palace the road splits and leads to a group of homes in the countryside below the palace. One of the larger homes belongs to Haman and there are GALLOWS 70 ft high built in his courtyard. SEE SCRIPTURE REF found in ESTHER 7:9 NKJV - Gordon usually prefers the NKJV for scripture. However, this visual has not been vetted, so please get historical reference approved whether it is standard "hanging gallows" that we might think of with the word "gallows" or is it the "sharpened pole 70 feet high" described in NLT and others.)

CLOSE ANGLE - A YOUNG SERVANT stands near TWO MUDDY CHARIOTS stage near a corner in the stables area. (Hidden around the corner are a line of chariots to be revealed later) (chariots - <http://www.persianempire.info/Xerxes.htm>. - Please double check with Erin for approval - not vetted) The Servant throws a pitcher of water on one and begins to scrub. A moment later, Servant Overseer enters with Gizmo and Chris. He shoves them roughly toward the chariots.

57 SERVANT OVERSEER  
You will scrub these chariots until  
they shine.

He hands them both a very small brush. Gizmo salutes.

58 GIZMO  
Yes sir. We shall do our best!

FAVOR CHRIS as he watches the Servant Overseer exit. When Chris is absolutely sure he's gone, he turns to Gizmo.

59 CHRIS  
Come on, Gizmo! Let's go find Joy!

He tries to push Gizmo ahead, but the robot won't budge.

60 CHRIS (CONT'D)  
<Efforts> Come on, Gizmo! Go!

61 GIZMO  
I cannot just leave! I gave that  
man my word that I would scrub  
these chariots until they shine.

Gizmo puts his hand over his "heart."

62 GIZMO (CONT'D)  
(Solemnly)  
And a robot's word is his bond.

63 CHRIS  
<Resigned sigh.> Fine. We'll  
scrub first - then find Joy.

Pleased, Gizmo pops a large buffer attachment from his chest and begins to polish a chariot.

64 GIZMO  
(Whistling happily)

Next to him, another worker looks at Gizmo's speed - then eyes the brush in his own hand - waaay too small. Dispirited, he rolls his eyes, then turns and begins to scrub with the small brush.

WIPE TO:

**INT. THE WOMEN'S QUARTERS - MEANWHILE**

Hatach stands with Joy in a lush room, draped with silks and strewn with pillows. Joy is captivated by the sight.

65 JOY  
Wow! Amazing!

A beautiful young woman (ESTHER) appears from behind her. She moves up next to Hatach.

66 ESTHER  
What is your name, young lady?

Joy is surprised and delighted to see the young woman.

67 JOY  
(Surprised and delighted)  
Oh, hello! I'm Joy...

68 HATACH  
Bow when the queen addresses you.

Joy reacts in great surprise - then embarrassment.

69 JOY  
The queen??? Oh, I... I didn't know...  
I...

Joy is so flustered that she bows deeply - then curtsies - then drops down to one knee. Esther smiles warmly.

70 ESTHER  
<Warm laugh> Of course you didn't.  
I'm not wearing my crown!

Hatach hands Esther the ROYAL CROWN and she places it on her own head.

71 ESTHER (CONT'D)  
There. Now do I look like a queen?

72 JOY  
Oh yes! You look... beautiful!

Esther, charmed by Joy's ingenuous reactions, removes the crown and hands it to Joy so she can look at it more closely.

73 ESTHER  
This crown first belonged to Queen Vashti, before she fell into disfavor with the king.

74 JOY  
There was a queen before you?

Esther looks over at Hatach in amused surprise.

75 ESTHER  
Hmm... She must come from a very far off land not to know this, Hatach.

Hatach nods.

Joy grins.

76 JOY  
Oh yes. Very very far off.

Esther sits on a couch of pillows.

77 ESTHER  
When King Xerxes became unhappy with Queen Vashti, he began to look for someone to take her place.

She pats the couch, indicating for Joy to sit next to her.

78 ESTHER (CONT'D)

Many young women were brought to  
the palace. The one who pleased  
him most would be his new queen.

Joy bounces down on the couch next to Esther.

79 JOY

(With great excitement)  
And the king liked you the very  
best of all, right?

Esther laughs affectionately at her enthusiasm.

80 ESTHER

(finds Joy endearing)  
<Chuckles>

Joy stares at the crown in her hand.

JOY

(light sigh)

Joy rises and places the crown she still holds onto her own  
head, swooning. Then, catching herself, Joy quickly removes  
the crown.

81 JOY (CONT'D)

(Shrug of embarrassment)  
Oops. Sorry.

Ester reaches over and takes the crown - raises it - and  
places it back on Joy's head.

82 ESTHER

I think it looks beautiful.

83 JOY

(giggles)

WIPE TO:

#### **EXT. ROYAL STABLES - DAY**

CLOSE SHOT as Chris, Gizmo, and Young Servant put the final  
polish on a chariot. Chris steps back and wipes his forehead.

84 CHRIS

There. Done. Now can we go and  
find Joy?

Gizmo folds his buffer attachment away.

85 GIZMO  
It would seem the appropriate thing  
to do.

Chris quickly turns to leave -

CHRIS  
All right! Let's go!

- only to <BUMP> right into the tall, muscular Servant Overseer's chest.

86 CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Ooph!

WIDE to include both chariots, gleaming. Servant Overseer eyes the shiny chariots then nods his approval.

87 SERVANT OVERSEER  
Excellent work, slaves. But you  
missed a few.

He turns and points around the corner. Chris and Gizmo stretch the necks and peer around the corner.

POV - REVEAL a LONG LINE of dirty chariots.

BACK ON Gizmo looks and smiles...

88 GIZMO  
Well... a robot's word is his...  
OH!

Chris yanks him O.C.

89 CHRIS  
Don't say it.

He pushes him towards the line of chariots.

WIPE TO:

**EXT. THE PALACE GATE AND SURROUNDING PALACE WALL - DAY**

SHARP DOWN ANGLE (POV OUT ESTHER'S WINDOW) on MORDECAI, sitting outside the gates wearing sack cloth and ash. A few CITIZENS pass by, on the street outside, obviously well-dressed by comparison.

HATACH

Your Majesty, I think I see your  
cousin down by the palace gate.

(animatic says "Cousin  
Merdecai" but we will  
change to simply "Cousin  
and pick it up before  
animation.)

CAMERA PULLS UP AND BACK INTO the women's quarters. Hatach  
has been looking out the window and turns to look into the  
room.

HATACH (CONT'D)

Come look.

NEW ANGLE

Joy and Esther cross from the lounge to the window.

JOY

You have a cousin?

ESTER

Yes, Mordecai. He raised me as a  
child. In fact, he's the one who  
brought me here to be made a queen.

They reach the window, looking down at Mordecai at the palace  
gates.

91 JOY

That man raised you? He looks kind  
of... dirty.

92 ESTHER

(noticing)

Yes... He wears sackcloth and  
ashes... that is the clothing of one  
who grieves.

Esther turns to Hatach.

95 ESTHER (CONT'D)

Hatach - you are my most trusted  
servant. Please go speak to  
Mordecai on my behalf. Something  
is not right.

Hatach bows and hurries off.



Just then Esther and Joy hear the loud <CLATTER> of hoofbeats and shouts.

97 FRIEND OF HAMAN #2 (O.C.)  
... Bow to the most favored  
minister of the king! BOW!

Esther and Joy rush to look out the window to look out again.

**EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATES - P.O.V. LOOKING DOWN**

Esther and Joy see HAMAN and his TWO FRIENDS (from the teaser) riding up the street toward the palace gates. Along the street CITIZENS bow as Haman passes.

Haman and his entourage reach the gates where Mordecai stands. They stop and wait for Mordecai to bow - he does not.

CLOSE ON MORDECAI - He says nothing but continues to refuse.

CLOSE ON HAMAN - Haman rides his horse to within inches of Mordecai. The horse's hooves <CLATTER> on the street just inches from Mordecai's feet - but still he does not bow.

CLOSE ON JOY AND ESTER LOOKING DOWN - They are concerned.

98 JOY  
Why isn't Mordecai bowing?

CLOSE ON MORDECAI - Haman rears his horse up and the horse's hooves paw the air, dangerously close to Mordecai's head. He stares up at Haman but refuses to bow.

CLOSE ON JOY - She brings her hand to her mouth.

99 JOY (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
<GASP!>

BACK ON HAMAN AND MORDECAI

Unable to make Mordecai bow - or even flinch - he yanks the reins and turns his horse away and enters the gates.

PUSH IN ON MORDECAI - He watches the O.C. Haman with a steady - steely stare of resolve.

**INT. WOMEN'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS**

Esther is very distressed as she walks away from the window.  
Joy stays at the window, still looking down.

100 JOY  
Why wouldn't Mordecai bow?? He  
could have been hurt!

101 ESTHER  
One day I fear he *will* be hurt.  
Haman is a very powerful man.

Joy brightens with an idea.

102 JOY  
But the king is more powerful,  
right?

Esther looks at her and nods.

103 JOY (CONT'D)  
So talk to him! Tell him you'd  
like him to keep Mordecai safe.

Esther shakes her head, slightly amused by Joy's naivete.

104 ESTHER  
I cannot tell King Xerxes what I  
would like him to do, Joy.

105 JOY  
Why not? He's your *husband*!

106 ESTHER  
He is also the *king*. I cannot even  
go to visit him unless I am called.  
That is the law.

CLOSER ON JOY as she ponders this.

107 JOY  
Oh.  
(pondering)  
It can be really hard to speak up  
to the people who are in charge...

108 ESTHER  
Yes. It takes courage. And I am  
not that brave.

These words resonate with Joy as we...

FADE OUT:

**ACT TWO**

FADE IN:

**EXT. THE CHARIOT HOUSE - TIME LATER**

Haman and his two men ride up.

ANGLE ON THE YOUNG SERVANT

He's polishing chariots with Chris and Gizmo. He drops his brush and runs to assist. Chris and Gizmo look at one another and then follow suit.

ANGLE ON HAMAN AND HIS FRIENDS - They dismount.

109 FRIEND OF HAMAN #1  
Still Mordecai will not bow to you,  
Haman! The insolence!

Haman waves his friend to be quiet as they toss their horses' reins to Chris, Gizmo, and Young Servant.

110 HAMAN  
Do not worry about Mordecai. Soon  
enough he will be dead. Him and  
all those like him.

The kids pull their horses O.C. HOLD on Mordecai as he drops his voice and the kids don't overhear this part.

111 HAMAN (CONT'D)  
I will construct gallows at my own  
home to enjoy the sight of his  
demise.

Haman and friends leave.

Chris, Gizmo, and Young Servant begin to lead the horses to the stables. Chris and Young Servant have cooperative horses who are easily led. Gizmo's horse refuses to budge.

113 CHRIS  
Who is "Mordecai"?

We can see Gizmo in the background, humorously struggling to get his stubborn horse to move.

114 YOUNG SERVANT  
He's a good man. He saved the  
king's life once.

Gizmo struggles in the BG with a horse.

GIZMO  
(effort sound)

CLOSER on Chris and Young Servant - Gizmo no longer in shot.

115 YOUNG SERVANT  
Mordecai overheard two guards who  
were plotting to kill the king and  
he turned them in.

Apparently Gizmo's stubborn horse has finally decided to move as we see it gallop past behind Chris and Young Servant with Gizmo hanging around the horse's neck, holding on for dear life!

116 GIZMO  
Whooooaaaaa!

Chris and Young Servant don't seem to notice as they continue talking.

117 CHRIS  
So why does Haman think that  
Mordecai will be dead soon?

Young Servant shrugs - this is just how it is.

118 YOUNG SERVANT  
(With a shrug)  
Mordecai is a Jew. Haman has  
written a decree that all the Jews  
in the kingdom are to be killed.

Chris stops, surprised by this news.

119 CHRIS  
What?!?

Young Servant continues out of shot.

TRUCK IN on Chris' troubled face as he considers what he has just heard.

WIPE TO:

**INT. WOMEN'S QUARTERS - SOON**

CLOSER on Esther's troubled face as she stands holding Haman's decree, staring at it in disbelief.

120 ESTHER  
So, this decree is why my cousin  
grieves! Haman must have lied to  
have it written!

WIDER to show Hatach and Joy are with her. Esther tosses the decree down angrily.

121 ESTHER (CONT'D)  
Someone must tell the king!

Hatach boldly looks into Esther's eyes and speaks.

122 HATACH  
Mordecai believes it is time for  
you to speak up for your people.

Esther looks up at him in shocked surprise.

Joy, confused by what she is hearing, moves up next to Esther to ask;

123 JOY  
(confused)  
Your people?

Esther gathers her courage and lifts her head proudly.

124 ESTHER  
Yes. I am a Jew - just as my  
cousin is. But King Xerxes does  
not know this.

CLOSER ON ESTHER as she dictates her message to Mordecai.

127 ESTHER (NKJV 4:11) (CONT'D)  
(Speaking to Hatach)

Remind my cousin that anyone who  
goes into the inner court to the  
king who has not been called will  
be put to death...

Joy cannot help but gasp at this revelation.

128 JOY  
<Gasp!>

129 ESTHER (NKJV 4:11)  
...except the one to whom the king  
holds out the golden scepter...

X DISSOLVE

**EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATES - CONTINUOUS**

Hatach speaks the last lines of Esther's missive to Mordecai.

130 HATACH (NKJV 4:11)  
...Yet the queen herself has not been  
called to go into the king these  
past thirty days.

Mordecai nods in understanding.

131 MORDECAI (NKJV 4:13)  
Tell the queen this: Do not think  
that you will escape in the king's  
palace any more than all the other  
Jews.

X-DISSOLVE BACK

**INT. WOMEN'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS**

Hatach speaks the last lines of Mordecai's response to  
Esther.

132 HATACH (NKJV 4:14)  
And Mordecai said... "if you remain  
silent... deliverance will arise for  
the Jews from another place - but  
you and your father's house will  
perish.

\*

134 HATACH (NLT 4:14) (CONT'D)  
Mordecai also said, "Who knows if  
perhaps you were made queen for  
just such a time as this?"

Esther struggles and then makes a decision.

ESTHER  
What Haman has done is wrong. I  
must talk to the king.

\*

Esther turns to Hatach.

137 ESTHER (NLT 4:15-16) (CONT'D)  
Tell Mordecai to gather together  
all the Jews of Susa and fast for  
me. Do not eat or drink for three  
days, night or day.

ANGLE on Hatach and Joy, listening intently as she continues;

138 ESTHER (CONT'D)  
My maids and I will do the same.  
And then, though it is against the  
law, I will go in to see the king.

CLOSE on Esther - her face now reflecting her new strength  
and conviction.

139 ESTHER (CONT'D)  
If the king holds out his golden  
scepter to me, I live. If not, I  
die.

WIDER - Hatach bows solemnly and respectfully and leaves.

Joy turns anxiously to the queen, who suddenly appears very  
calm.

140 ESTHER (CONT'D)  
Either way, I have done what is  
right.

CLOSER ON ESTHER'S FACE - now calm and fearless.

142 ESTHER (CONT'D)  
If I must die, I must die.

PUSH IN ON JOY REACTING...

WIPE TO:

**EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT OF PALACE - DAY****INT. THE THRONE HALL - DAY**

King Xerxes sits on his throne, reviewing a decree.

The king looks up to see

ESTHER, now in royal robes - looking extremely beautiful, stands just in arch of the throne hall door, looking strong and confident. She looks over to her left.

POV - JOY is off to the side with a nervous expression - worried.

ON THE KING - his face shows no emotion as he beckons Esther to come closer.

WIDER - No words are spoken as she moves regally to stand in front of him. Leopard circles her legs.

AT THE DOORWAY - Joy peeks around the door frame from just outside the door to watch.

ON THE KING AND ESTHER - More silence as the king assesses Esther.

ON JOY - fearful for the queen.

ON KING AND ESTHER - At last the king holds out his golden scepter to Esther. She reaches out to touch it. When she does, the circling Leopard suddenly stands on his hind legs and playfully licks her cheek.

ON JOY - she releases a sigh of relief.

144 JOY  
(Loud whisper)  
<Relieved sigh.> Yes!

FAVOR THE KING as he breaks into a big smile.

145 KING XERXES  
It pleases me greatly to see you,  
Queen Esther! What do you wish? It  
shall be given to you - up to half  
the kingdom!

Esther, now knowing that she is doing what's right, speaks calmly.



146 ESTHER

Let you and your favored minister  
Haman come to a banquet I will  
prepare for you tonight.

King Xerxes nods approvingly.

147 KING XERXES

Wonderful idea! It shall be done.

WIPE TO:

**INT. THE BANQUET HALL - LATE AFTERNOON**

CLOSER on the heavy drapes covering the windows. After a moment, Joy's head pokes out to look around to see

POV - Two servants (one is King's Servant #1) are setting dishes for a banquet on a low table. Pillows and soft couches surround the table. No one is seated yet.

After a moment, King's Servant #1 looks over toward the drapes - as if he knows Joy is there.

BEHIND THE DRAPES - Joy quickly pull her head back in and silently start backing up, hoping to avoid detection.

ANOTHER ANGLE - shows that Chris and Gizmo are also behind the drape - and Chris is also backing up.

Suddenly - BUMP - the two friends back right into each other!

167 CHRIS/JOY

<Tiny little shrieks>

CLOSER on their faces as they realize who they have bumped into!

168 CHRIS

(Excited whisper)

Joy! We found you!

169 GIZMO

Oh Joy! It has been so many days!

Gizmo is so happy that he <CLAPS> his metal hands together in glee. Chris and Joy turn to vigorously shush him!

170 CHRIS/JOY

SSHHHHH!!!

JOY

Why do you smell like a horse?

CHRIS

(sarcastic)

Because a robot's word is his bond.

The kids peer around the tapestry to watch the banquet being set by the two servants.

171 CHRIS (CONT'D)

What's going on?

172 JOY

Last night Queen Esther held a banquet for the king and Haman, his favorite minister...

FAVOR Chris, listening.

173 JOY (CONT'D)

She's holding a second banquet for them tonight so she can...

Before she can answer, they hear a voice on the other side of the drape and freeze in place to listen;

174 KING XERXES (O.C.)

Servants! Some wine!

Joy parts the drapes slightly and the three friends peek out.

IN THE BANQUET HALL - King Xerxes, Esther, and Haman are now seated at the table. The king sits in the center with Queen Esther on one side and Haman on the other. The servants are filling their goblets with wine.

King Xerxes speaks to Esther.

175 KING XERXES (CONT'D)

We have joined you at this second banquet, my queen. What else do you request from me? It shall be granted - up to half the kingdom!

CLOSER on Esther

ESTHER (CEV 7:3)  
"Your Majesty, if you really care  
for me and are willing to help, you  
can save me and my people.

FAVOR Haman, he stiffens, suddenly nervous about what she  
might say.

ESTHER (CEV7:4) (CONT'D)  
That's what I really want. For we  
have been sold, my people and I.

KING Xerxes reacts in surprise.

KING XERXES  
(Surprised by the news)  
Your people have been sold?!

QUEEN ESTHER nods solemnly.

HAMAN looks worried.

BACK ON ESTHER

ESTHER  
We have been sold, my people and I -  
to be destroyed, to be killed, and  
to be annihilated.

The king looks surprised.

ESTHER (CONT'D)  
Had we been sold as male and female  
slaves I would have held my tongue,  
although the enemy could never  
compensate for the king's loss.

The king slams his fist down on the table.

KING XERXES (NKJV 7:5)  
Who is he, and where is he, who  
would dare presume in his heart to  
do such a thing?!

FAVOR Esther as she looks Haman in the eyes and points.

ESTHER (NKJV 7:6)  
That adversary and enemy is this  
wicked Haman!

WIDE - The king rises and pounds the table in anger as he turns to Haman.

KING XERXES

You!!

Haman cringes - terrified.

HAMAN

(grunt as he ducks) But I but...  
your majesty...

Furious, the king throws down his wine goblet and storms out of the banquet hall.

CLOSER ON HAMAN AND ESTHER - Haman rushes over and gets down on his knees in front of Esther to plead with her.

186 HAMAN (CONT'D)

(pleading)

My queen - you must speak on my  
behalf! If you do not, the king  
will surely kill me!

Esther looks down at him stoically - unmoved.

Haman throws himself at her, truly desperate!

187 HAMAN (CONT'D)

(desperate)

I beg you! Help me! Do not let me  
die!

We hear the king shout from O.C.

188 KING XERXES (O.C.)

WHAT IS THIS!?

Haman looks up, terror in his eyes.

IN THE DOORWAY OF THE BANQUET ROOM stands the king. He has returned and, seeing Haman upon the queen, he is even more furious!

189 KING XERXES (NKJV 7:8) (CONT'D)

Will he even assault the queen  
right here in the palace, before my  
very eyes?

HAMAN

What... no... please....

FAVOR King's Servant #1, hurrying over to the king. He points out the window toward Haman's house. There is a gallows in Haman's courtyard.

190 KING'S SERVANT #1  
Look. The gallows, fifty cubits  
high, which Haman made for Mordecai  
is standing at the house of Haman.

The King ponders the view for along beat and then says...

191 KING XERXES  
Hang him on it!

CLOSE ON HAMAN cowering in absolute terror now.

192 HAMAN  
<Gasp!> No!

TWO GUARDS enter and lift Haman to his feet and take him away. Haman hangs limply in their arms, head down, knowing he has been defeated.

HAMAN (CONT'D)  
(Protesting - No! No! Not me!  
Please!)

DISSOLVE TO:

**INT. THE THRONE ROOM - SUNSET**

OVER THE SHOULDERS of Joy, Chris and Gizmo, standing at the back of the room, looking up at Mordecai and Esther, standing before King Xerxes.

193 KING XERXES (NKJV 8:7)  
I have given you the house of Haman  
and they have hanged Haman on the  
gallows because he tried to lay his  
hand on the Jews.

FAVOR Esther as she kneels before the king.

194 ESTHER (NLT 8:5)  
If it please the king, and if he  
thinks it is right, let there be a  
decree that reverses the orders of  
Haman...

CLOSE on Esther looking up at the king as she implores.

195 ESTHER (CONT'D)

For how can I endure to see my  
people and my family slaughtered  
and destroyed?

FAVOR the king, looking down at her and nodding.

196 KING XERXES (NLT 8:8)

Send a message to the Jews in the  
king's name, telling them whatever  
you want...

King Xerxes hand his signet ring to Mordecai.

197 KING XERXES (CONT'D)

...and seal it with the king's signet  
ring.

TIGHTER on Esther and Mordecai sharing a triumphant moment  
together.

198 MORDECAI (NLT 8:11)

We will write a decree giving the  
Jews in every city authority to  
unite to defend their lives.

199 ESTHER (NLT 8:16)

And Jews in every province and city  
will be filled with joy and  
gladness!

CLOSER on Chris, Joy, and Gizmo, impressed by what they've  
witnessed. Joy turns to look at Esther.

EXT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

The SUPERBOOK EFFECT COMES UP

GIZMO (O.C.)

Superbook!

Chris and Gizmo run out into the EFFECT.

CHRIS

Joy! You ready to go?

CLOSE ON JOY

She rushes out to join them.

JOY

Yeah. I'm *definitely* ready.

The EFFECT envelops them.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING SHOT - AFTERNOON

We see the BLUE FLASH of the SB return off near the gym.

**EXT. DOORWAY OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GYM - LATE AFTERNOON**

Superbook returns the kids. Joy as she walks up to the open door of the school gym and looks in.

201 CHRIS

Looks like your Girls' Leadership  
Club meeting is starting, Joy.  
Good luck.

Joy turns to him with the same kind of calm serenity that Esther had once her decision was made.

202 JOY

I don't need luck, Chris. God is  
always with me - to help me stand  
up for what is right.

Chris and Gizmo watch from the doorway as Joy marches inside.

**INT. THE GYM - CONTINUOUS**

Janice, Lynn, and three other girls are already sitting at a table. Janice sees Joy and waves her over.

203 JANICE

Joy! We've been waiting for you!

FAVOR JOY as she hurries over and plants herself in front of the girls at the table.

204 JANICE (CONT'D)

(pointedly)

Are you ready to make your  
recommendation?

Joy takes a deep breath for courage.

205 JOY  
Yes. <Deep breath> I recommend  
Bonnie Scott.

JANICE'S face drops in shock.

206 JANICE  
(shocked)  
What??

Joy continues, feeling strong and sure that she is doing the right thing.

207 JOY  
Bonnie is smart and kind and funny  
and would make a great member of  
our club.

Janice rolls her eyes.

208 JANICE  
Well, we can vote on it. But I  
think it's a bad choice, Joy.

WIDEN - Joy stays firm as Janice addresses all the girls.

209 JANICE (CONT'D)  
All those in favor of bringing the  
new girl in the wheelchair into the  
club raise your hand.

Joy confidently raises her hand.

ANGLE on the other girls. There's an awkward pause as they all shuffle uncomfortably, looking at Janice out of the corner of their eyes.

IN THE DOORWAY, Chris and Gizmo stand observing and looking worried.

ON JOY - She waits patiently, her hand up, a confident smile on her face.

ANGLE on the other girls. Tentatively, GIRL #1 raises her hand.

Girl #2 sees this and her hand shoots up.

Girl #3 thinks about it a moment. Then her hand goes up as well.



FAVOR Janice looking at them in shock. The other girls stare at her, waiting.

CLOSER on Janice - making her decision.

210 JANICE (CONT'D)  
(caught)  
Uh... I... guess you're right, Joy.

Then she slowly puts up her hand - what choice does she have?

WIDE on all the girls as they leap to their feet, cheering and gathering around Joy.

211 GIRL#1/GIRL #2/GIRL #3/JANICE  
<Cheers!>

DISSOLVE TO  
LATER:

INT. GYM - LATER

Bonnie is helping decorate. The girls surround her and all are friendly... even Janice.

212 BONNIE/JOY AND GIRLS  
(excited/playful walla)

FAVOR GIZMO

He speeds in on his roller-wheels with his confetti cannon sticking from his open chest plate.

213 GIZMO  
Make way, ladies. Who-hoo!

He zips to a stop in front of Bonnie.

214 BONNIE  
Nice wheels Gizmo!

215 GIZMO  
Nice wheels yourself. (giggle) And  
that not the best part!

He clamps the confetti canon to the arm of her wheelchair.

216 GIZMO (CONT'D)  
FIRE WHEN READY!

He steps back and Bonnie hits the button making the cannon fire confetti! <WHOOSH>

217 JANICE/JOY/BONNIE/GIRLS  
(laughing)

They take off running as Bonnie chases after them in the chair, doing wheelies and FIRING CONFETTI in a playful ending.

\*\*\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*