

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Esther

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2:15-18

Background: The Book of Esther tells how a young Jewish woman named Esther became the queen of Persia. Xerxes was the king of Persia, and as he held a large banquet for the noblemen and governors of his provinces, he summoned Queen Vashti to come before the audience. When she refused, King Xerxes removed her from being the queen and then conducted a search for a new queen.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Esther prepared herself to go in to the king. [2:15]
- ☐ When she was taken to the king, he loved her more than any of the other women and made her queen instead of Vashti. [2:16-17]
- ☐ The king then gave a great feast for all his officials and servants and gave many generous gifts. [2:18]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How were Esther and Mordecai related? [2:15]
They were cousins.
2. For what did Esther ask? [2:15]
She only asked for what Hegai suggested to her. He was the king's official who was in charge of the women.
3. When was Esther taken to the king? [2:16]
She went into the royal residence in the tenth month, in the seventh year of the king's reign.
4. Why do you think the king set the royal crown on Esther's head and made her queen? [2:17]
He loved her more than all the other women.
5. The king gave a great feast for whom? [2:18]
The feast was given for all his officials and his servants.
6. What did he call the feast? [2:18]
He called it "Esther's feast."
7. What did he grant and give? [2:18]
He relieved the provinces from being taxed and he gave generous gifts.

Comment Section:

2:19-23

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Esther did not tell anyone about her relatives or her people. [2:20]
- ☐ Two of the king's officials wanted to harm King Xerxes. [2:21]
- ☐ When Mordecai knew of the plan to harm the king, he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king. [2:22]
- ☐ When this report was confirmed, the two officials were hanged. [2:23]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Where was Mordecai sitting? [2:19]
Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate.
2. What had Mordecai instructed Esther? [2:20]
He had told her not to tell anyone about her relatives or her people.
3. Why do you think Esther followed Mordecai's instructions? [2:20]
Perhaps she had always followed his instructions when she was raised by him.
4. What did Bigthana and Teresh seek to do to King Xerxes? [2:21]
Bigthana and Teresh sought to do harm to King Xerxes.
5. What happened when Mordecai learned of this plot? [2:22]
He told Queen Esther, who spoke to the king in the name of Mordecai.
6. What happened to Bigthana and Teresh? [2:23]
Both the men were hanged on the gallows.
7. Where was this account written? [2:23]
This account was written in the book of the events of his reign.

Comment Section:

3:1-6

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ King Xerxes promoted Haman and ordered all his servants to kneel and bow down to him. [3:1-2]
- ☐ Mordecai refused to kneel to Haman. [3:2-4]
- ☐ Haman was so angry with Mordecai that he planned to kill him and all other Jews in the kingdom. [3:5-6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who did King Xerxes promote above all the other officials? [3:1]
He promoted Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite.
2. Why do you think all the king's servants who were at the king's gate knelt and bowed down to Haman? [3:2]
The king had ordered them to do so.
3. What did Mordecai refuse to do? [3:3-4]
Mordecai refused to kneel or bow down to Haman.
4. Why do you think Haman became very angry? [3:5]
Mordecai did not kneel and show him respect.
5. Who did Haman want to kill? [3:6]
Haman wanted to kill Mordecai as well as all the Jews in the entire kingdom.

Comment Section:

4:12-17

Background: Haman deceived the king and had him decree that all the Jews would be killed in one day on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. When Mordecai found out, he cried out with a bitter cry, and there was a great mourning among the Jews. Esther spoke to one of the king's eunuchs who said that no one could speak to the king about this unless he called them to speak to him.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Esther's words were reported to Mordecai. [4:12]
- ☐ Mordecai sent Esther a message telling her what would happen if she remained silent. [4:13-14]
- ☐ Esther planned a fast that would last for three days before she went to the king. [4:15-17]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Hathak report to Mordecai? [4:12]
He reported the words of Esther.
2. What message did Mordecai send back to Esther? [4:13]
He told her that just because she was in the king's palace, she would not escape any more than the other Jews.
3. What else did Mordecai's message include? [4:14]
He told her that if she remained silent, relief and rescue would rise up for the Jews from another place but that she and her father's house would perish.
4. How do you think Esther responded to Mordecai? [4:15-16]
She said for him to gather all the Jews who lived in Susa and fast for her for three days and nights.
5. What did Esther say she would do after the fast? [4:16]
She said after the fast she would go to the king, even if it was against the law.
6. Then what did Mordecai do? [4:17]
He went and did all that Esther ordered him to do.

Comment Section:

6:1-9

Background: Esther spoke to the king and asked that the king and Haman come to a feast that she was going to prepare. Haman was full of joy when he heard this, but when Mordecai did not bow and give him honor, he was enraged. So, Haman built a gallows fifty cubits high and planned to ask the king to have Mordecai hanged upon it.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ When the king could not sleep, he had his servants read aloud what was recorded about the events of his reign. [6:1]
- ☐ He learned that Mordecai had not been honored for preventing two men from harming him. [6:2-3]
- ☐ The king asked Haman what he should do to the person the king wanted to honor. [6:4-7]
- ☐ Haman listed all the things he thought should be done for the person the king wanted to honor. [6:7-9]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why did the king command his servants to bring the records of the events of his reign? [6:1]
He could not sleep.
2. What was recorded that Mordecai had told about? [6:2]
Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh and their desire to harm the king.
3. What had been done to honor Mordecai for telling the king about Bigthana and Teresh? [6:3]
Nothing had been done to honor him.
4. Who was in the courtyard wanting to speak to the king? [6:4]
Haman was in the courtyard.
5. When the king's servants told him that Haman was standing in the courtyard, what was the king's response? [6:5]
The king allowed Haman to come in.
6. When the king asked Haman what should be done for the man whom the king took pleasure in honoring, about whom did Haman think the king was talking? [6:6]
Haman thought the king was talking about himself.
7. How did Haman think that the man should be dressed whom the king took pleasure in honoring? [6:7-8]
Haman said he should wear royal robes that the king had worn.
8. What did Haman say about who should clothe the man whom the king takes pleasure in honoring and lead him on the horse through the city streets? [6:9]
He said that one of the king's most noble officials should do so.

Comment Section:

7:7-10

Background: On the second day of Esther's feast, the king said to Esther that he would grant her request, up to half of the kingdom. Esther told the king about the plan to destroy her people, and when the king asked who dared to do this, she replied that it was this evil Haman.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ When the king went into the palace garden, Haman begged Queen Esther to be allowed to live. [7:7]
- ☐ When the king returned, it looked like Haman was assaulting Queen Esther as he begged for his life. [7:8]
- ☐ Haman had set up gallows to hang Mordecai, but the king told the servants to hang Haman on the gallows instead. [7:9-10]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Haman do when the king got up in a rage after the wine-drinking? [7:7]
Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther.
2. After Haman fell on the couch where Esther was, what did the king think Haman was doing? [7:8]
The king thought he was assaulting the queen in the king's presence.
3. Where did the king say to hang Haman? [7:9]
The king said to hang Haman on the gallows Haman set up for Mordecai.
4. What happened after they hung Haman on the gallows? [7:10]
The king's rage died down.

Comment Section:

10:1-3

Background: The king took off his signet ring and gave it to Mordecai. The king allowed Esther to write a law that would allow the Jews to gather and defend themselves against their enemies. The Jews destroyed their enemies and plundered their property. The Jews celebrated a day of feasting that they called Purim because Haman had cast lots called Pur to determine the day that Haman planned to destroy the Jews.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ In addition to King Xerxes imposing a tax, all of what he achieved and all the greatness of Mordecai was written in the royal book of events. [10:1-2]
- ☐ In his position of being second in rank to King Xerxes, the efforts of Mordecai were appreciated as he helped the Jewish people prosper and live peacefully. [10:3]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Where did King Xerxes impose a tax? [10:1]
King Xerxes imposed a tax on the land and on the coastlands along the sea
2. Where were all that King Xerxes achieved because of his power and might written? [10:2]
They were written in the book of the events of the reigns of the kings of Media and Persia.
3. What was the rank of Mordecai the Jew? [10:3]
He was second in rank to King Xerxes.
4. Why do you think Mordecai was great among the Jews and popular with his many Jewish brothers? [10:3]
He sought the welfare of his people, and he spoke for the peace of all his people.

Comment Section: