

Sunday 3rd October 2021

Hi there,

Today we had part two of the Queen Esther story in our service. Here are some more resources for the children. Just if you want to use them – no pressure.

1. The puppets tell Episode 2 of the story in the service video. That video portion is also available on the Children's Blog page.
2. .Some fun activities from which parents might want to choose a way for the kids to act out the story.
3. Another telling of the Part Two of the story.
4. Two puzzles on Esther and a colouring page -



Bible Verse: Esther 4:14

"If you keep quiet now, help and freedom for the Jews will come from another place. But you and your father's family will all die. And who knows, maybe you have been chosen to be the queen for such a time as this."

SCEPTER SPOON (or DOWEL):

Use a long handled wooden spoon or a length of dowel to decorate as a sceptre, such as colouring it with a bright coloured marker and adding glitter, sequins, ribbons, etc to the top!

HERO MOBILE:

Find supplies to make a "mobile" from a colourful hanger, with words on clouds or mini crowns, etc, of BRAVE, PROTECTION, PRAYER; HERO, and other words from today's lesson. The completed mobile can hang in your bedroom.

ESTHER BOOKMARK:

Cut out a bookmark and draw a crown and glue sequins onto it. Write the last part of today's Bible verse on the bookmark to remind yourself of God's plan! Cover the bookmark with clear contact paper when completely done decorating.



ESTHER 3-7

THE DAYS OF PURIM



THE FESTIVAL OF PURIM
Every year, Jews celebrate Purim to commemorate the events in this story. It is a joyful, noisy occasion, during which the Book of Esther is read out loud.

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CHAPTER 3 VERSE 1
“Haman... the Agagite”

King Agag was the Amalekite king put to death by the prophet Samuel (1 Samuel: 15). The Amalekites and Israelites had been fierce enemies from the time of the Exodus. In Hezekiah's reign, the Amalekites were defeated by the tribe of Simeon and their land taken (1 Chronicles 4: 39-43). From then on they were a nation of dispossessed people. Haman's Amalekite ancestry would explain his hatred of the Jews.

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CHAPTER 3 VERSE 7
“Month of Nisan”

The diaries of the Persian court were drawn up in Nisan, the first month of the year – which fell in March. The Persians were superstitious and believed in fate. Therefore the dates of specific occasions were determined by various methods of divination.

THE KING'S SEAL

The king's word was law. A decree issued in his name and authorized by his seal could not be revoked.

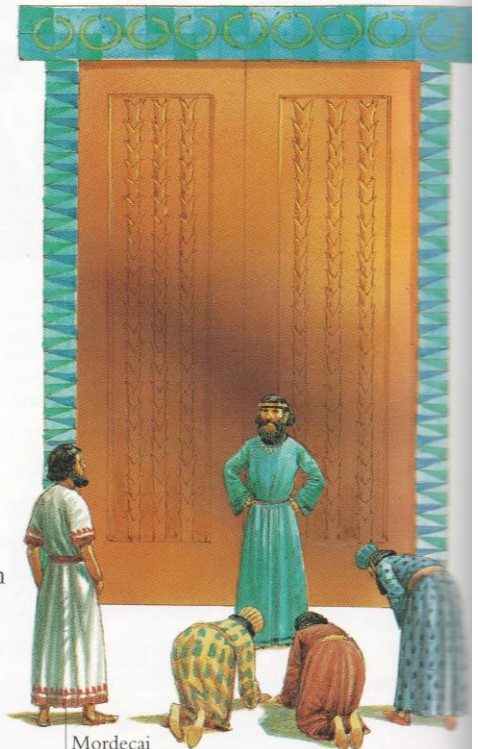
THE ROYAL POST

King Cyrus introduced a swift and efficient postal system. Letters were carried by royal couriers via relays of horses and other animals, kept at allotted stations across the empire.

3 **K**ING¹ XERXES honoured Haman... the Agagite, elevating him...²All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honour to Haman...³When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honour, he was enraged.⁴Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews...

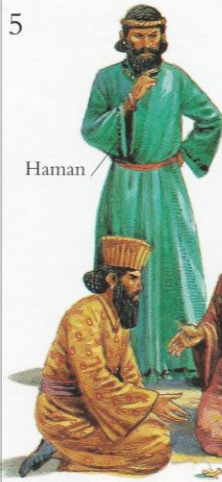
⁷In the... month of Nisan, [the royal officials] cast the pur (that is, the lot) in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month.

Haman told the king that some of his subjects were not obeying the laws and asked him to issue a decree to plunder and kill them. Xerxes agreed and gave Haman his royal seal. The edict was posted throughout the empire. When Mordecai heard the news, he sent Esther to beg for mercy.



Mordecai

Haman is outraged when Mordecai refuses to bow to him



Haman

Haman and his officials cast lots to fix a time to kill Mordecai and the whole Jewish nation

5 ¹Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace... The king was sitting on his royal throne [and he] ²held out to her the gold sceptre...³Then the king asked, “What is it, Queen Esther?...” “If it pleases the king,” replied Esther, “let the king, together with Haman, come...⁸tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question.”

⁹Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage...¹⁴[He decided to] have a gallows built... to have Mordecai hanged on.

That night the king could not sleep, so he ordered the book of records to be read to him. He discovered that Mordecai had not been rewarded for saving his life, so the next day he had him dressed in royal robes and paraded through the streets.

¹So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther. ²The king [asked] “Queen Esther, what is your petition?...” ³Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favour with you, O king... spare my people – this is my request. ⁴For I and my people have been sold for destruction and slaughter and annihilation...” ⁵King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?”

“Esther said, “The adversary and enemy is this vile Haman.”...
⁹Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, “A gallows seventy-five feet high stands by Haman’s house. He had it made for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.” The king said, “Hang him on it!” ¹⁰So they hanged Haman on the gallows.

A second decree was issued bearing the king’s seal. This allowed the Jews to defend themselves against attack and to destroy their enemies. Supported by the king’s officials, the Jews killed all those who acted on Haman’s decree.

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 CHAPTER 3 VERSE 7
 “Cast the pur”

The word “pur” appears on a die dating from the reign of Assyrian King Shalmaneser III (858–24 BC). Haman threw dice to determine a day to carry out his plan to massacre the Jews. The Jewish festival of Purim takes its name from the Hebrew plural of “pur”.



LOTS

Small stones and ceramic pieces were often used as lots. These lots were found at the Masada Fortress, south of Jerusalem, where the Jews took refuge during their revolt against Rome in AD 70. The Jews decided to die rather than face capture. A name was written on each lot to decide who would kill the others.

Esther tells the king of Haman’s plan to kill Mordecai and the Jews

The king is indebted to Mordecai for saving his life

The king orders Haman’s execution

Queen Esther arranges a feast for Haman and the king



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 UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

The Book of Esther is the only book of the Bible that never mentions God by name, but the events in the story convey divine providence at work. Esther’s elevation to queen and Mordecai’s role in exposing a plot against the king place them in a position to be able to foil Haman’s plan to exterminate the Jews.

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 CHAPTER 5 VERSE 2
 “Held out... the gold sceptre”

To approach the king without his summons was punishable by death, unless he held out his sceptre. This protocol protected the king against assassins and maintained his dignity.

Word Search Puzzle

H O N B O S I L V E R D D R C
R O P G L A O T M F K M B A W
W H G I D C Y M L R A O X A T
J O S E P H G B D D C T C L S
P O P Z Z D W H N A S C H D T
I Q E N M R A A J N M A F E U
P B R G S G L W E M E N L F R
C O R S Y N R R M E R A O O F
B R N O A P D A B O C A C D D
M J B L T L T O Z P H N K S Y
L O H D I H R D G E A B S K R
O B W H J F E E O S N P H I F
V C C K T T H R N O T A D L T
E Q S Q A U H O S T S M L L X
D O O H Z E S B D J Y H A Z O

LAND
HATED
SONS
EGYPT

MERCHANTS
GRAZE
JACOB
KILL

LOVED
OLD
BROTHERS
FLOCKS

JOSEPH
BORN
SILVER
FATHER

CANAAN
ROBE
CHILDREN
SOLD

Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet.
Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to
reveal the coded words.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

13-15-18-4-5-3-1-9 _____

3-18-15-23-14 _____

2-18-1-22-5 _____

11-9-14-7 _____

2-5-1-21-20-9-6-21-12 _____

17-21-5-5-14 _____

5-19-20-8-5-18 _____

20-9-13-5 _____

24-5-18-24-5-19 _____

16-1-12-1-3-5 _____

MORDECAI

CROWN

BRAVE

KING

BEAUTIFUL

QUEEN

ESTHER

TIME

XERXES

PALACE



Queen
Esther