

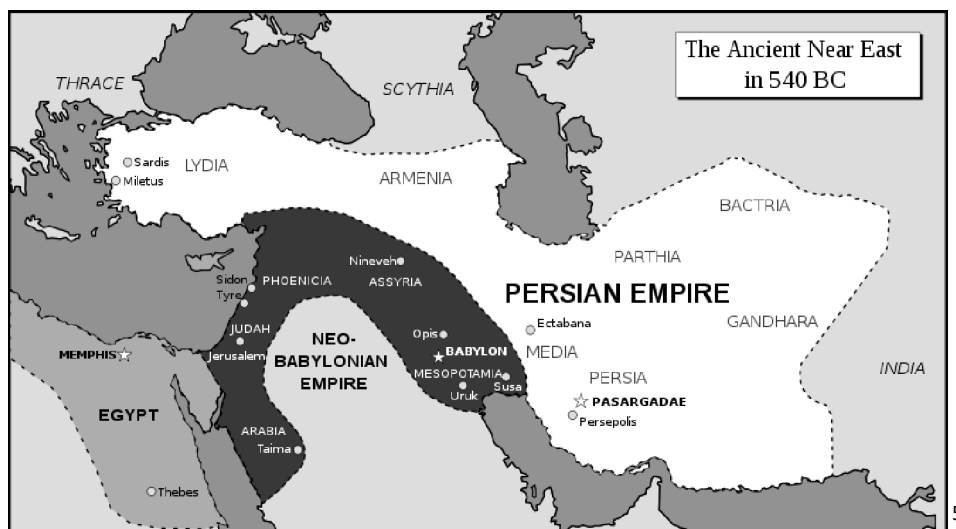
Becoming a Woman of Influence

Chapter Four - ESTHER:

To begin, we will set the stage. Turn to Esther 1:1-4.

King Ahasuerus, also known as _____, is the king of _____.

His territory included _____ provinces.



Today's story takes place during the _____ of King Ahasuerus' reign.

Read Esther 1:5-8.

Verse 5 tells us that this second banquet lasted for _____, and included

_____.

⁵ https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ancient_near_east_540_bc.svg

Notes on this:

Read Esther 1:9-12. Notes on this:

But Queen Vashti _____. The king was _____.

NOTE: You might have noticed the mention of “eunuchs” in these passages.

What are they? Eunuchs were _____. They were often used to guard _____.

Notes on this:

Chapter 1 concludes by telling us that the king issued a _____,
proclaiming that Vashti was _____.

Read Esther 2:1-4, then 2:5-7.

In verse 5, we are introduced to _____.

Notes on him:

In verse 7 we are finally introduced to our character of the day, _____.

Esther was actually Mordecai's _____.

Notes on her:

Read Esther 2:8-11.

NOTE: Scholars believe that Esther was approximately _____ at this point, though nothing definitive is listed in Scripture.

Notes on these verses:

NOTE: A harem was a part of the household that was _____ to male visitors, except the eunuchs.

Let's continue with our story. Read Esther 2:12-14.

Esther went through a 12-month grooming process. Notes on this:

NOTE: A concubine was a woman who lives with a man and maintains a sexual relationship, though not as _____.

Read Esther 2:15-18. The king _____.

King Ahasuerus held another _____ in Queen Esther's honor.

Notes on this:

In Esther 2:21-23 we find Mordecai _____.

Notes on this:

Read Esther 3:1-6. We are introduced to _____.

Notes on him:

As second in command, the king (and Haman) expected all of the people to _____ to him out of respect for his position within the kingdom.

But Mordecai did _____ to Haman.

Notes on this:

By the end of chapter 3, Haman turned his _____.

Notes on this:

So the king took off his _____ and gave it to Haman. This would be equivalent to the _____.

Read Esther 3:13-15.

Letters were sent, and the plot to _____.

The king had unintentionally approved the order to _____.

Read Esther 4:1-3. Mordecai's hope was that once Esther saw the decree, she

_____ and _____.

Read Esther 4:9-12. Notes on this:

Read verses 13-14. Notes on this:

"perhaps you have attained this royal position for _____."
(v.14)

Read Esther 4:15-17. It is _____ turn to influence _____!

Queen Esther wanted all of the Jews to _____.

Notes on this:

Queen Esther's most famous quote is found in verse 16:

"...if I _____, I _____."

Esther realized that her _____ was bigger than her fears.

Read Esther 5:1-8 Notes on this:

King Ahasuerus extended the scepter toward her so that she could _____.

Notes on this event:

While speaking to his wife, Haman also lamented over _____
sitting at the king's gate every day. His wife offered a suggestion.

Notes on this:

Read Esther 6:1-3. Notes on this:

Read Esther 6:6-9. Haman thought the king was talking about _____.

Read Esther 6:10-14. Notes on this:

They told Haman, “*you will not overcome him (Mordecai), but will surely*

_____.” (v.13)

Read Esther 7:1-10. Notes on this:

The king gave the house of _____ to _____.

And then she gave it to _____.

Mordecai was the new _____ of Persia.

One major issue: King Ahasuerus could _____.

Read Esther 8:7-8. Notes on this:

The king would allow the Jews to _____.

Read Esther 8:15-17. Notes on this:

One note about this act of war - _____

Afterwards, it was decreed by Mordecai and Queen Esther that there would be an annual day of _____, _____, and _____ . It is known as the Feast/Festival of Purim.

Esther reigned as the queen of Persia for a period of about _____.

She had one son with King Ahasuerus, named _____. The date of Queen Esther's death is _____.

Was Esther a woman of influence? Notes on this:

No one knows who wrote the book of Esther, but it does not mention _____.

Because of Queen Esther, we know that God has a special plan for each of us... we only need to look and listen for "the moment for which we were created."



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Influence

Small Group Work / Homework - ESTHER

Did you learn anything new or gain new perspective from the study of Esther?

Why did Mordecai instruct Esther not to tell anyone about her heritage? Explain.

Esther asked the king and Haman to dine with her two days in a row. Why? Do you think that was the original plan? Explain your answer.

What three adjectives would you use to describe Esther before she became queen, and what three would you use to describe her as queen? Explain.
