

HADASSAH

#4, if I perish, I perish – Esther 4:1-17

A copy of the edict to be issued as law in every province was published to all the peoples so that they should be ready for this day. Ester 3:14

Savor each of your remaining days folks because soon you will all be slaughtered. This was Haman's plan, all signed sealed and delivered! As the minutes ticked away, the city was in confusion and "the king and Haman sat down to drink."

1 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city and wailed loudly and bitterly. 2 He went as far as the king's gate, for no one was to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth.

[1.] v:1-2, Compare the reactions of Mordecai with that of the king and Haman. What kind of minds are we dealing with in the king and Haman?

[2.] v:1-2 again, Describe how it possible for humans, even Christians, to become calloused to atrocities, if they are exposed on a regular basis.

[3.] v:1-2 some more, By what mediums are humans exposed to atrocities?

[4.] v:1-2 one last time, We know that there are certain things we cannot take into our systems, like drugs or certain foods. What might we be doing to our minds if we regularly absorb the worlds activities?

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3 In each and every province where the command and decree of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing; and many lay on sackcloth and ashes.

4 Then Esther's maidens and her eunuchs came and told her, and the queen writhed in great anguish. And she sent garments to clothe Mordecai that he might remove his sackcloth from him, but he did not accept them.

5 Then Esther summoned Hathach from the king's eunuchs, whom the king had appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was. 6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai to the city square in front of the king's gate.

7 Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact amount of money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. 8 He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict which had been issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show Esther and inform her, and to order her to go in to the king to implore his favor and to plead with him for her people.

[3.] v:3, sackcloth and ashes, **What does this signify?**

[4.] v:4, maidens and her eunuchs came and told her, **Why would these think the queen cared one way or another?**

[5.] v:5-6, Why was "getting the whole story" important here and what can we learn from the queen's response?

[6.] v:7-8, What was Mordecai's ultimate goal in thoroughly briefing Hathach.

[7.] v:7-8 again, Before we move on, why do you think Mordecai would trust Hathach any way?

[8.] v:7-8 last one, As Christians, how do you come to trust some one?

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9 Hathach came back and related Mordecai's words to Esther. 10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and ordered him to reply to Mordecai: 11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days." 12 They related Esther's words to Mordecai. 13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. 14 "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

[9.] v:9-12, In your own words describe the thing the king practiced for un-invited guests that just "dropped in"?

[10.] v:13-14, After telling Hadassah that she was not exempt from Haman's destruction, Mordecai said, And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this? What did he mean?

[11.] v:13-14 again, Even though, sometimes as Christians, we might feel we are just "one more grain of sand on the sea shores", how do we know we are important to God?

[12.] As a Christian, what do you feel is the purpose for your earthly existence?

[13.] As a Christian why or why isn't the purpose of your existence the same as the worlds?

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15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, 16 "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish." 17 So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him.

fast, * OT:6684 (*tsoom*); a primitive root; to cover over (the mouth), i.e. to fast:
KJV - at all, fast.

[14.] v:15-16, What was the queen's instructions to Mordecai?

[15.] v:15-16 again, fast, What purpose did this have ?

[16.] I Samuel 7:6, In an early account of fasting, why did Israel fast in this instance?

“. . . if I perish, I perish.” This being said, Hadassah had put herself totally into the hands of the Almighty! In a supreme act of faith she put her own life on the line in order to save the people that had a death sentence upon them. This was reminiscent of the time of the Judges where approximately fifteen hundred years of Jewish history again takes us back to a time after Joshua.

Judg 2:14-16, The anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and He gave them into the hands of plunderers who plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around them, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. 15 Wherever they went, the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord had spoken and as the Lord had sworn to them, so that they were severely distressed. 16 Then the Lord raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them.

So similar to the judges of old, the Lord raised up a person to deliver his people. Reviewing the following verses, describe Hadassah's calling.

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Est 2:7, And he (**Mordecai**) was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther,

Est 2:9, Now the young lady pleased him (**Hegai**) and found favor with him.

Est 4:14 "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

Est 4:16 fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way.

Est 4:16 And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish,

[17.] Est 2:7, In bringing up Hadassah, why or why wouldn't Mordecai have any idea that she would some day have to put her life on the line?

[18.] Est 2:9, If this wasn't a physical attraction, what was it?

[19.] Est 4:14, Why might Hadassah have known that the Lord sometimes uses humans to rescue her people?

[20.] What should we do when we are in a situation where we do not have access to an expert or a "How to" reference book to give us a solution to our problem?

[21.] Est 4:16, This verse does not document that they also sought the Lord but in this circumstance, why or why wouldn't they have prayed?

[22.] Est 4:16, What power would have given Hadassah this plan?

[23.] Est 4:16, Did this plan take faith in God or self?

* New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary