

# DUNAMIS

Power Hour

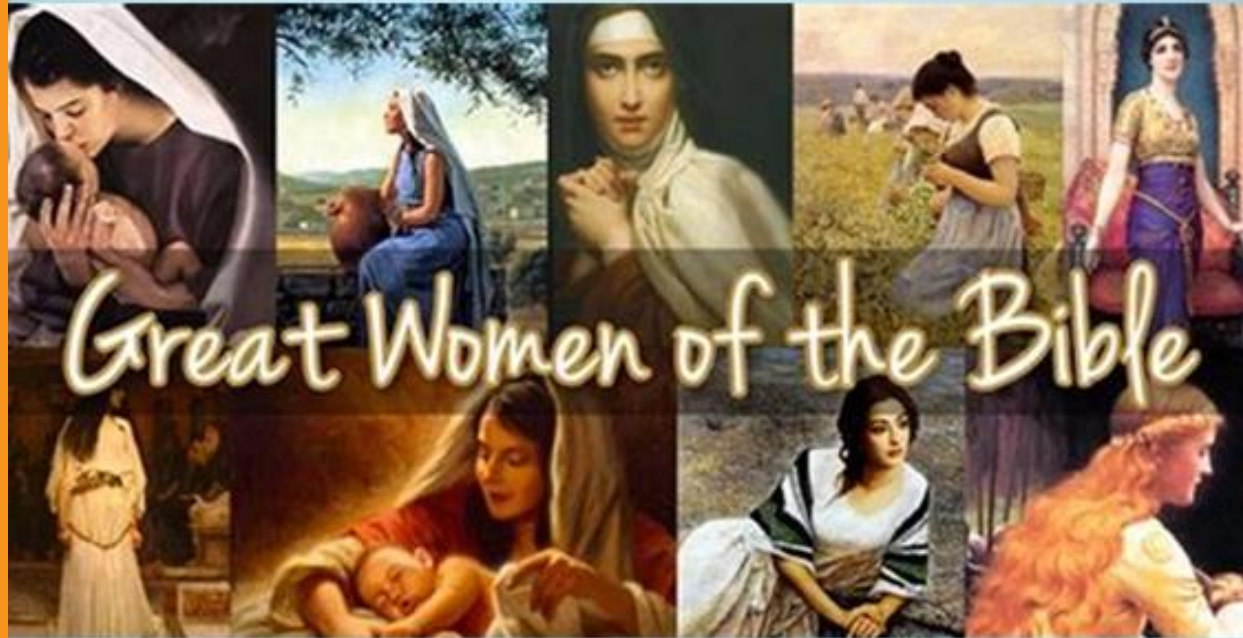
for the love of the Word

--- journey through the Bible ---





Join us this month  
on the study of  
**Women of the Bible:**  
The good, the faithful  
and the wicked





# *Bad Women of the Bible*





# *Bad Women of the Bible*

## Why pay any attention to the wicked?

- Learn how NOT to behave
- Recognise wrong character traits in our own lives
- Recognise the work of the enemy
- Know what to intercede for





# ESTHER

Great Woman!!





# BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER

Last of the books of history

Only the second book to carry the name of a woman. Other one is Ruth

The author of the book is not known

Period set in the era of the Persian Empire somewhere between 483 and 471 BC

Territory of Ahasuerus covered 127 provinces, more than half of the known world at that time and lived in the Persian capital of Shushan, the winter capital

Historically tied to the planned invasion of Greece by Ahasuerus (Xerxes) and his defeat at the battle of Salamis in 480 BC with 5 million men)

Esther means “ Star “

Esther is like David and Joseph. God had each one hidden away for His purpose and when the day came, He brought each one to the front to work His purpose .

**THE NAME OF GOD IS NOT MENTIONED ANYWHERE IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER**

**YET GOD IS EVERYWHERE AT WORK IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER**



# PRINCIPLE FIGURES IN ESTHER

There are 5 main characters in the book of Esther

Ahasuerus

Mordecai

Haman

Esther

Vashti

There are also three feasts that have major importance in Esther:

Feast of king Ahasuerus    Esther 1-2

Feast of Esther             Esther 7

Feast of Purim              Esther 9

We will not cover these feasts in their fullness





# THE OUTLINE OF ESTHER

A new queen chosen 1:1-2:17

King Ahasuerus displays his power and holds a feast

Queen Vashti is deposed

Esther is chosen as queen

The king's life saved 2:19-23

Mortdecai uncovers a conspiracy

Esther informs the king

A plot against the Jews formed 3:1-4:17

Haman plots to destroy the Jews

Mordecai persuades Esther to intervene

Esther solicits Mordecai's help

Mordecai exalted 5:1-6:14

Esther plans a banquet

Haman plots to destroy Mordecai

Haman is forced to honour Mordecai

Haman Hanged 7:1-6

Esther discloses her identity and exposes Haman

Haman is hanged on gallows prepared for Mordecai





# THE OUTLINE OF ESTHER

The Jews saved 8:1-9:17

- Esther brings her request to the king

- The king issues a decree on behalf of the Jews

- The Jews defeat their enemy

The Feast of Purim established 9:18- 10:3

- The Jews celebrate the first Purim

- The king advances Mordecai

It is recommended that after the presentation that you take time to read the whole book of Esther to understand more fully the sequence of events that unfolded from Vashti to the final feast of Purim and the rule of Mordecai and Ester.

We will rather concentrate tonight on the real key principles that are found and unfold in the book of Esther





# QUEEN VASHTI

Esther chapter 1

Vashti was queen in Persia

Esther 1:9 Queen Vashti also made a feast for the women in the royal palace...

Esther 1:11 she was summoned to the king's presence wearing her crown so he could show off her beauty

Esther 1:12 But the Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command Why ?

No Persian woman would permit this because it was considered an affront to her womanhood and virtue! The king had broken Oriental etiquette in his drunken state and now he was a laughingstock in front of his nobles and princes. Esther 1:13-17.

The king had to deal with this even though he was the instigator of the problem

Esther 1:17 For the queen's behaviour will become known to all women, so that they will despise their husbands in their eyes when they report, "King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought in before him, but she did not come. V 19....that Vashti shall come no more before King Ahasuerus

Rebellion dealt with and opens the way for the introduction of Esther





# GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE

Esther is introduced in the picture when her uncle, Mordecai, presents her as one of the virgins called for to be prepared in the king's palace for the king to ultimately choose a new queen out of the possible candidates.

**She immediately finds favour**, Ester 2:9 Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his **favour**: so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women

Esther 2:15b. And Esther obtained **favour** in the sight of all who saw her.

Esther 2:17 the king loves Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and **favour** in his sight more than all the virgins: So he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

**We must recognise that favour is given for a purpose and God's favour to Esther's led to her position , provision and protection for His people .**

Mordecai uncovers a plot to kill the king and tells Esther who informs the king.

Esther 2:22 So the matter became known to Mordecai, who told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name.

Remember this; The king failed at this time to reward Mordecai





# GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE

Haman is promoted by the king to a higher position ( Haman is a type \ representation of satan )  
Mordecai would not bow to Haman when he was at the gates of the city, he was informed of this and at that time Mordecai revealed that he was a Jew Ester 3:4

Ester 3:5 When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath.

Ester 3:6b **Instead , Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus – the people of Mordecai**

Was Mordecai's stubbornness \ weakness a reason that leads to possible destruction of the Jewish nation or did living a holy life dedicated to God and in the face of death and persecution model steadfastness and faithfulness to worship God alone ?

Haman now presents his scheme to the king to destroy the Jews , the king accepts and authorises Haman to issue a decree in his name and also offers the king of his own money for this purpose (Judas)  
Ester 3:8c Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain

**Key Moment in Haman's plan:** Ester 3:7. They cast a lot to see when the plan would be executed, and it landed on 12 months from that date.

Ester 4:1 When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry.





# GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE

Esther 4:3 And in every province where the kings command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing, and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Esther 4:4-10 Esther learns of the decree and communicates back and forth with Mordecai. Gravity of the situation sets in and Mordecai asks Esther to plead before the king for him and for her people. Remember Esther is a Jew and had never revealed it to the king **Esther 2:10 Esther had not revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal it .**

Esther 4:13 And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: Do you think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. 14 **for if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place,** but you and your father's house will perish. **Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?**

Esther 4:16 **Go,** gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me: neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. **And so I will go to the king, which is against the law, and if I perish, I perish!**

The danger led Jews everywhere to turn to God wholeheartedly .





# GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE

Esther now reveals the power of a life unconditionally devoted to God and her people. Risks her prominent position, wealth, and her own life to intercede for God's people. Character trait also revealed that she obeyed Mordecai and his guidance. This is now a faith walk if there ever was one!

Esther 5:2 So it was when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, **that she found favour in his sight**. The result: Esther 5:6 .. What is your petition? It shall be granted to you. What is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!

The king goes to the banquet with Esther: Esther 7:2.b the king repeats his declaration of Esther 5:6

Esther's petition: Esther 7:3-6 Then Queen Esther answered and said: If I have found favour in your sight, O king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, to be annihilated. 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. And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman !..





# GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE

Haman is taken by the king's servants and hanged at the very gallows he had prepared to hang Mordecai on.

The devices of the enemy will come down on his own head! Psalm 7:16; 37:14-15

Psalm 35:8 Let destruction come upon him unexpectedly And let the net that he has hidden catch himself. Into that very destruction let him fall.

This can also be related to the crucifixion of Jesus. Satan's plan to destroy Jesus, led to his own downfall and ultimate destruction. Colossians 2:15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

When great adversity is met with courageous intercession ( Esther 4:16 ) the Lord will confound the enemy, redeem every trial and deliver His people from bondage. Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose





# GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE

Remember that the decree of the king , initiated by Haman is still in force. According to the Persians and Medes, their law was unchangeable and even the king was powerless to alter it.

Esther 8:1-6,

Esther 8:6 for how can I endure to see the evil that will come to my people ? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my countrymen?

Esther 8:8 You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring: for whatever is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke.

Explanation of Haman's decree against the Jewish people, countered by the new decree written by Esther and Mordecai .Remember Haman's decree was scheduled for 12 months ahead, and they now had 7 months left to prepare to counter it.

Esther 9 Salvation of the Jews by themselves in accordance of the kings decree.

Esther 9:16 the remainder of the Jews in the king's provinces, gathered together to protect their lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of their enemies. But they did not lay a hand on the plunder.





# GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE

Mordecai's ( analogous of the Holy Spirit ) (comparable, parallel, similar, like, corresponding, ) original response to Esther at the time the decree was revealed showed that she was a timid and unsure person and her advancement was not on her character but on her beauty! Not known for her courage, she rose to the occasion, acted against her normal character and turned from her own self interests to the plans and purposes of God. This resulted in the King advancing her to a position of co-rulership and new authority: Prov 12:4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband.

Truly effective women are those who are turned from their own short-sighted agenda to Gods eternal purpose

Esther is similar to Jesus Christ our Saviour. She gave up her right to live to save the nation from certain death. Heb 2:17 She fasted for three days Mathew 4:2 She was exalted by the king Phil 2:5-11

The potential to live beyond our normal potential exists for all of us.

Key principle revealed between Mordecai and Esther is Teamwork. Their relationship vividly displays the unity that there was between Jesus and His disciples in John 17. There must be unity.

Esther affirms how God will destroy those who try to harm his people. Both Esther and Mordecai feared God



# GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE

There is always one thing to do : Do what is right and leave the rest to God

Prayer moves the hand that moves the world. A devoted woman moved a determined monarch

God's pioneers leave all to gain all

Those who walk in holy sincerity with Christ may walk in holy security among humanity

YET WHO KNOWS WHETHER YOU HAVE COME TO THIS KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS







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