

## **Esther Appears Before the King (I wrote)**

**Last week, when we left Queen Esther, she had asked Mordecai and all the Jews in Susa to gather together, fast and pray for her.**

**She and her maids were going to do the same.**

**At the end of those three days...Esther planned to go before the king to ask that the Jews be spared.**

**Although appearing before the king with out being asked could get Esther killed, she was willing to die in order to save her people.**

**So, after three days, Queen Esther put on her royal robe and set out to visit the king.**

**Can't you just imagine how terrified Queen Esther was? IF the king did not hold out his royal scepter to her, she would be put to death.**

**Would he hold out the scepter? Would he order her to be put to death?**

**There was only one way to find out.**

**Esther bravely entered into the inner court of the king's palace.**

**King Xerxes was seated on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace.**

**When he looked up at Queen Esther, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended the golden scepter towards Esther.**

**Esther stepped forward and touched the end of the golden scepter.**

**Then the king said "What is troubling you, Queen Esther? And what is your request? You shall have it even if it is half my kingdom."**

**Now Esther did not blurt out her request immediately...perhaps she was to scared...perhaps God had told her that the timing was not right yet...perhaps she wanted to see if the king really meant what she said.**

**We do not know why she didn't ask...but she didn't**

**Instead, Esther said “ If it please the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for you?”**

**The King said “Bring Haman quickly that we may do as Esther desired.”**

**So the king and Haman came to the banquet which Esther had prepared.**

**As the meal was winding down and they were having their last course, which is drinks, the king said to Esther, “Now, what do you want, for it shall be granted you. And what is your request? For you shall have it...even to**

**half of the kingdom it shall be done.**

**Now...once again, Esther does not tell King Xerxes what her real request is.**

**Instead, Esther said “If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition and do what I request, may the king and Haman come to the banquet which I shall prepare for them, and tomorrow I will tell you what my petition is.”**

**Sounds like Esther is a little scared doesn't it?**

**Or has God revealed to her that the timing is just not right yet?**

**As Haman is leaving the banquet with the king and queen, he is feeling pretty pleased with himself.**

**“I just had dinner with the king and queen.”  
He was probably thinking**

**“How great am I, I am more important than anyone else in the palace.”**

**But then, as he rounds the corner...there is Mordecai sitting at the gate.**

**Mordecai should be horrified at the sight of Haman.**

**He should be trembling....But no, Mordecai does not stand... he does not plead for his life...he is not trembling...WHY?**

**Haman rushes past Mordecai in anger and went home to lick his wounds.**

**When he arrived at home...all of his family came to support and comfort him.**

**Haman began to brag about himself.**

**“I am the only one who gets to eat with the king and queen.”**

**“I am the king’s right hand man.”**

**“I am rich and the king has promoted me over all the other princes and servants.”**

**But still, none of this makes me happy because of one person...Mordecai**

**Then Haman’s wife and all of his friends suggested that Haman build a gallows 50 cubits high and in the morning, ask the king to hang Mordecai the Jew from it, then go joyfully to the banquet with the king and queen.**

**Haman, liking that idea...ordered a 50 cubits high gallows be built before the morning light.**

**Now during the night, King Xerxes was having trouble sleeping...I wonder why?**

**Do you think that God might have something to do with it? I believe he does... listen closely and see if you agree.**

**When the king was having trouble sleeping...he requested that the book of records be brought to him.**

**This book of records is a book that tells of everything that happened in the life of the king.**

**While King Xerxes is reading the book of records, he realizes that Mordecai had never received a reward for saving his life.**

**Remember, Mordecai had heard two men plotting to kill the king.**

**When Mordecai revealed this to the king, the king's life was spared and the two men who were plotting to kill the king were hung on a gallows.**

**Mordecai had never received a reward...this would never do he thought...I have to reward this brave man who saved my life.**

**Bright and early the next morning, Haman went running to the king. He was going to ask the king to have Mordecai hung on the 50 cubit high gallows that was built overnight.**

**However, when he entered the king's courts, the king spoke first.**

**“What should be done for a man whom the king desires to honor?”**

**Now the wheels in Haman's head are quickly turning. He thought that the king was talking about him. He thought the king was wanting to honor him.**

**“Oh, said Haman, “For the man whom the king desires to honor, let them bring a royal robe which the king has worn, and the house on which the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown has been placed.”**

**“And let the robe and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble princes.**

**And let them array the man whom the king desires to honor and lead him on horseback through the city square and proclaim before him.**

**Thus shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor.” He said.**

**Then the king replied “It shall be done. Take the robes, and the horse which you have said and do so for Mordecai the Jew, who is sitting at the king’s gate; do not fall short in anything of all that you have said.”**

**So Haman had to place the royal robe and the crown upon Mordecai’s head, he had to place Mordecai upon the royal horse and he had to lead Mordecai throughout the town.**

**How humiliated Haman must have felt.**

**When he had done all that the king had commanded...Haman covered his head and ran home in shame.**

**About this time...the king's eunuch arrived  
to take Haman to the royal banquet with the  
king and queen.**

**Print out the following review questions.**

**Cut each questions into small strips. Fold or roll if necessary**

**Place each question inside a different balloon.**

**The children have to smash their balloon to find and answer the review question.**

**What is the King's name in our story?**

**What was the king doing when we first heard about him?**

**What was Queen Vashti (not Queen Esther) doing when we first heard about her?**

**What did the king want Queen Vashti to do?**

**When Queen Vashti refused to appear before the king, what happened to her position as queen?**

**What was the name of the young, Jewish girl; who was presented before the king?**

**What was Esther's cousin's name?**

**What was Mordecai's job?**

**What did Esther look like?**

**What kind of girls were brought before the king?**

**Who did King Xerxes choose to replace Queen Vashti?**

**How long did the young girls prepare themselves before being presented to the king?**

**One day, Mordecai overheard a conversation between two men. What were they plotting to do?**

**Who warned the King about an assassination attempt on his life?**

**What happened to the two men who were plotting to kill the king?**

**What was the name of the evil man who plotted to kill ALL Jews?**

**What did the law that Haman wrote say about the Jews?**

**When Mordecai heard about the new law against the Jews, what did he do?**

**When Mordecai asked Queen Esther to appear before the king and plead their case, what did Esther ask Mordecai and all the Jewish people to do?**

**When Queen Esther went before the king, she knew that her life could be in danger IF the king did not do what?**

**Did the King hold out the golden scepter or did he have Queen Esther killed?**

**When Queen Esther appeared before the king, what did he say to her?**

**When Queen Esther appeared before the king the first time, what did she request of him?**

**What did Queen Esther ask from the king the second time that he asked?**

**Why did Haman hate Mordecai so badly?**

**How did Haman plan to have Mordecai executed?**

**What did the king ask for when he was having trouble sleeping?**

**What did King Xerxes discover when he was reading the Book of the Records?**

**When Haman appeared before the king, to ask for Mordecai's life, what did the king ask him instead?**

**Who did Haman think the king wanted to honor?**

**What humiliating thing did the king make Haman do?**



## **Pickle Eating Contest**

**Talk with the children about how Queen Esther used a soft voice and kind words to get what she wanted.**

**She didn't bark orders or belittle her husband to get what she wanted, she used kind words and flattery**

**Ask if anyone has ever heard of the old saying "You can catch more flies with honey than vinegar."**

**Ask if they know what it means**

**Then talk with them about using kind words, etc**

**Then have a pickle eating contest. (Use big; whole dill pickles)**

**You may have to divide into groups with children of the same age or size.**