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Esther

The book of Esther is a part of the Old Testament in the Christian Bible. It tells the story of a Jewish girl named Esther who becomes queen of Persia and saves her people from a plot to destroy them.

The story begins when King Xerxes of Persia throws a lavish party for his subjects. During the party, he orders his queen, Vashti, to appear before him, but she refuses. Xerxes is angry and decides to replace Vashti with a new queen. A search is launched for a new queen, and Esther, a Jewish girl living in Persia with her cousin Mordecai, is chosen.

Esther keeps her Jewish identity a secret and becomes queen. Meanwhile, Mordecai uncovers a plot by one of the king's advisors, Haman, to destroy all the Jews in Persia. Mordecai urges Esther to reveal her identity to the king and plead for her people's safety. Esther does so, and the king is shocked to learn that his queen is Jewish and that there is a plot to destroy her people.

With Esther's help, the king foils Haman's plan and the Jews are saved. The holiday of Purim is established to celebrate this event.

The book of Esther is unique among the books of the Bible in that it does not mention God explicitly. However, many scholars see the hand of God in the events of the story, working behind the scenes to protect and save his people. The book also emphasizes the importance of faith, courage, and standing up for what is right, even in the face of great danger.

here is a brief description of each chapter in the book of Esther:

Chapter 1: King Xerxes throws a lavish party for his subjects, and orders his queen Vashti to appear before him, but she refuses and is banished.

Chapter 2: A search is launched for a new queen, and Esther, a Jewish girl living in Persia with her cousin Mordecai, is chosen. Esther keeps her Jewish identity a secret and becomes queen.

Chapter 3: Haman, one of the king's advisors, becomes angry when Mordecai refuses to bow down to him. Haman plots to destroy all the Jews in Persia.

Chapter 4: Mordecai urges Esther to reveal her identity to the king and plead for her people's safety. Esther agrees, but knows that going to the king without being summoned could result in her death.

Chapter 5: Esther bravely approaches the king and invites him to a banquet. At the banquet, she asks the king to spare her people from Haman's plot.

Chapter 6: That same night, the king cannot sleep and orders the chronicles of his reign to be read to him. He is reminded of a time when Mordecai saved his life, and decides to honor Mordecai for his bravery.

Chapter 7: At a second banquet, Esther reveals Haman's plot to the king and begs for her people's safety. The king is furious and orders Haman to be executed.

Chapter 8: The king issues a new decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves against their enemies. Mordecai becomes a powerful official in the kingdom.

Chapter 9: The Jews successfully defend themselves against their enemies, and the holiday of Purim is established to celebrate their victory.

Chapter 10: The book concludes with a summary of King Xerxes' reign and a note about the greatness of Mordecai.

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Chapter 1 of the Book of Esther begins with a description of the lavish banquet thrown by King Ahasuerus (also known as King Xerxes) in the third year of his reign. The banquet

is held in the capital city of Susa, and lasts for 180 days, during which the king displays the immense wealth and grandeur of his kingdom to all his officials, nobles and guests. On the final day of the feast, the king orders his queen, Vashti, to come before him and display her beauty to the assembled guests. Vashti, however, refuses to obey the king's command and is subsequently banished from the palace, as the king and his advisors fear that her disobedience would set a bad example for all other women in the kingdom. In order to find a new queen to replace Vashti, the king's advisors suggest that he should hold a beauty contest, in which the most beautiful virgins from all parts of the kingdom will be gathered and presented before the king. The winner of the contest would then become the new queen.

The chapter ends with the king issuing a decree throughout the kingdom, commanding that all women should obey their husbands and that every man should be the master of his own household.

That's a brief summary of Esther Chapter 1 from the Christian Bible.

Here are some important verses from Esther Chapter 1 in the Christian Bible:

1. "Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus (this was the Ahasuerus who reigned over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, from India to Ethiopia)," (Esther 1:1)
2. "When he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the splendor of his excellent majesty for many days, one hundred and eighty days in all." (Esther 1:4)
3. "On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus," (Esther 1:10)
4. "Queen Vashti also made a feast for the women in the royal palace which belonged to King Ahasuerus." (Esther 1:9)
5. "But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command brought by his eunuchs; therefore the king was furious, and his anger burned within him." (Esther 1:12)

These verses set the stage for the story of Esther, introducing the king, his vast empire, and the opulent lifestyle of the ruling class. They also introduce the character of Queen Vashti, who will play an important role in the events to come.

Chapter 2 of the Book of Esther begins with King Ahasuerus' advisors suggesting that he hold a beauty contest to find a new queen. The king agrees and orders his officials to gather all the most beautiful young virgins from the kingdom and bring them to the palace in Susa.

One of the young virgins brought to the palace is Esther, who is Jewish and has been raised by her cousin Mordecai. Esther is described as having great beauty and charm, and she quickly gains the favor of the palace officials who are responsible for selecting the king's new queen.

Esther is taken to the king's palace and given a year's worth of beauty treatments before she is presented to the king. When Esther finally meets the king, he is immediately taken with her beauty and chooses her to be his new queen, replacing Vashti.

Mordecai, Esther's cousin, continues to watch over her and advises her to keep her Jewish identity a secret while she is in the palace. One day, while the king is sitting on his throne, Mordecai overhears two of the king's officials plotting to assassinate him. Mordecai tells Esther about the plot, and she passes the information on to the king, giving credit to Mordecai.

The chapter ends with the king's officials being executed for their plot against him, and Mordecai's name being recorded in the king's chronicles as a hero. Esther continues to keep her Jewish identity a secret as she settles into her new life as the queen of Persia. That's a brief summary of Esther Chapter 2 from the Christian Bible.

Here are some important verses from Esther Chapter 2 in the Christian Bible:

1. "After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus subsided, he remembered Vashti, what she had done, and what had been decreed against her." (Esther 2:1)
2. "Then the king's servants who attended him said: 'Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king;'" (Esther 2:2)
3. "And the young woman pleased him and obtained his favor; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance." (Esther 2:9)
4. "Esther had not revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal it." (Esther 2:10)
5. "Thus Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign." (Esther 2:16)

These verses continue the story of Esther, detailing how she came to be chosen as a potential queen, and how she was prepared for her meeting with the king. They also introduce the character of Mordecai, Esther's uncle, who plays a significant role in the events to come. Finally, the chapter ends with Esther being taken to the king, setting the stage for the climax of the story.

Chapter 3 of the Book of Esther begins with the introduction of Haman, an Agagite and high-ranking official in King Ahasuerus' court. Haman becomes angry when Mordecai, Esther's cousin, refuses to bow down to him as he passes by. Haman discovers that Mordecai is Jewish and decides to take revenge not only on him but on all Jews throughout the Persian Empire.

Haman approaches King Ahasuerus and tells him that there is a certain people scattered throughout the kingdom who are different from everyone else and who do not obey the king's laws. Haman suggests that the king issue a decree to have all Jews in the kingdom killed and their property confiscated.

The king agrees to Haman's suggestion and gives him his signet ring, allowing him to issue the decree throughout the kingdom. Haman sets a date for the annihilation of the Jews and casts lots (purim) to determine the day of the massacre.

When Mordecai hears of the decree, he tears his clothes and puts on sackcloth and ashes, a sign of mourning. He sends a message to Esther, telling her about the decree and urging her to go before the king and plead for her people. Esther is hesitant, as going before the king without being summoned is a capital offense, but Mordecai urges her to take action, saying that she has been placed in her position as queen "for such a time as this."

The chapter ends with the king's edict being issued throughout the kingdom, and the Jews being thrown into great distress and mourning. Esther, still uncertain about what to do, asks Mordecai to gather all the Jews in Susa to fast and pray for her for three days, and then she will go before the king to plead for her people.

That's a brief summary of Esther Chapter 3 from the Christian Bible.

Here are some important verses from Esther Chapter 3 in the Christian Bible:

1. "After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him." (Esther 3:1)
2. "And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath." (Esther 3:5)
3. "When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or show him respect, he was filled with rage." (Esther 3:5, NLT)
4. "Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, 'There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain.'" (Esther 3:8)
5. "So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews." (Esther 3:10)

These verses introduce the character of Haman, an enemy of the Jewish people who is appointed to a position of great authority by King Ahasuerus. They also describe Haman's growing anger at Mordecai, who refuses to show him respect. Finally, the chapter ends with Haman convincing the king to issue a decree to destroy all of the Jews in the empire, setting the stage for the climax of the story.

Chapter 4 of the Book of Esther begins with Esther's response to Mordecai's message about the king's decree to kill all the Jews in the kingdom. Esther is hesitant to approach the king without being summoned, as it could result in her death, but Mordecai urges her to speak on behalf of her people, saying that she may have been made queen "for such a time as this."

Esther agrees to take action and sends a message to Mordecai, asking all the Jews in Susa to fast and pray for her for three days, while she does the same. After the three days of fasting and prayer, Esther dresses in her royal robes and goes before the king, who is pleased to see her.

The king asks Esther what she desires, saying that he will give her up to half of his kingdom if she requests it. Instead of making a request, Esther invites the king and Haman to a banquet she has prepared that day. After the banquet, the king again asks Esther what she desires, and she invites him and Haman to another banquet the following day.

Meanwhile, Haman is filled with pride and is enjoying the fact that he has managed to get the king's approval for the destruction of the Jews. However, when he sees Mordecai in the king's gate and realizes that he still refuses to bow down to him, Haman's anger is stirred once again.

Haman's wife and advisors suggest that he build a gallows 75 feet high and ask the king to hang Mordecai on it. Haman is pleased with this suggestion and immediately orders the gallows to be built.

That's a brief summary of Esther Chapter 4 from the Christian Bible.

Here are some important verses from Esther Chapter 4 in the Christian Bible:

1. "When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry." (Esther 4:1)
2. "So Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was deeply distressed. Then she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept them." (Esther 4:4)
3. "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 4:14)
4. "Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: '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!'" (Esther 4:15-16)

These verses describe Mordecai's reaction to Haman's decree, as well as Esther's initial reluctance to get involved. However, Mordecai convinces Esther that she has a responsibility to help her people, and she agrees to risk her own life to plead with the king. The chapter ends with Esther preparing to go before the king and asking for the support of her people through prayer and fasting.

Chapter 5 of the Book of Esther begins with Esther inviting the king and Haman to another banquet she has prepared. At the banquet, the king asks Esther what she desires, promising to grant her request up to half of his kingdom. However, Esther again asks the king to come to another banquet the following day, promising to reveal her request then. After the banquet, Haman sees Mordecai at the king's gate and is filled with anger once again. Despite the advice of his wife and advisors to build the gallows immediately and have Mordecai hanged, Haman decides to wait until he has spoken with the king at the next banquet.

That night, the king is unable to sleep and asks for the book of records to be read to him. The book happens to open to the page where Mordecai had previously reported a plot to assassinate the king, but had not been rewarded for his loyalty. The king asks his advisors what honor had been bestowed upon Mordecai, and they reply that nothing had been done for him.

The next day, Haman enters the king's court to ask for permission to hang Mordecai on the gallows he had built, but before he can speak, the king asks him what should be done for a man whom the king wishes to honor. Haman, thinking that the king is referring to him, suggests that the man should be dressed in the king's robes and paraded through the city on the king's horse, with a royal official proclaiming before him, "This is what is done for the man the king wishes to honor!"

To Haman's shock, the king orders him to do just that for Mordecai, who is waiting outside the court. Haman is humiliated but carries out the king's order for Mordecai. That's a brief summary of Esther Chapter 5 from the Christian Bible.

Here are some important verses from Esther Chapter 5 in the Christian Bible:

1. "Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house."
(Esther 5:1)
2. "So Esther answered, 'If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him.'" (Esther 5:4)
3. "Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate." (Esther 5:13)
4. "Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, 'Let a gallows be made, fifty cubits high, and in the morning suggest to the king that Mordecai be hanged on it; then go merrily with the king to the banquet.' And the thing pleased Haman; so he had the gallows made." (Esther 5:14)

These verses describe Esther's bold move to approach the king, as well as her invitation for the king and Haman to attend a banquet she has prepared. They also introduce Haman's increasing rage at Mordecai and his plan to have him executed. Finally, the chapter ends with Haman building a gallows to hang Mordecai, setting the stage for the climax of the story.

Chapter 6 of the Book of Esther begins with the king unable to sleep and ordering the book of records to be read to him. The passage that is read happens to be about how Mordecai had previously reported a plot to assassinate the king, but had not been rewarded for his loyalty. The king asks his advisors what honor had been bestowed upon Mordecai, and they reply that nothing had been done for him.

Just then, Haman enters the court to ask the king's permission to hang Mordecai on the gallows he had built. But before Haman can speak, the king asks him what should be done for a man whom the king wishes to honor. Thinking that the king is referring to him, Haman suggests that the man should be dressed in the king's robes and paraded through the city on the king's horse, with a royal official proclaiming before him, "This is what is done for the man the king wishes to honor!"

To Haman's shock, the king orders him to do just that for Mordecai. Haman is humiliated but carries out the king's order for Mordecai, who is waiting outside the court.

Afterward, Haman rushes home, mourning and with his head covered. His wife and advisors tell him that he will surely fail before Mordecai, as he had begun to fall before him. While they are still speaking with him, the king's eunuchs arrive and quickly take Haman away to Esther's second banquet.

At the banquet, the king asks Esther what her request is, promising to grant it even up to half of his kingdom. Esther then reveals to the king that she is Jewish and that Haman's plot to destroy her people includes her as well. The king is enraged and demands to know who is responsible. Esther points to Haman, and the king orders him to be hanged on the very gallows that he had built for Mordecai.

That's a brief summary of Esther Chapter 6 from the Christian Bible.

Here are some important verses from Esther Chapter 6 in the Christian Bible:

1. "That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king." (Esther 6:1)
2. "And the king said, 'What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?' And the king's servants who attended him said, 'Nothing has been done for him.'" (Esther 6:3)
3. "So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'" (Esther 6:11)
4. "And Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, 'If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him.'" (Esther 6:13)

These verses describe the events that lead to Mordecai's recognition by the king, as well as Haman's humiliation as he is forced to lead Mordecai through the city. The chapter ends with Haman's advisers warning him that his plot against the Jews is unlikely to succeed.

Chapter 7 of the Book of Esther begins with Esther revealing to the king that she is Jewish and that Haman's plot to destroy her people includes her as well. The king is enraged and demands to know who is responsible. Esther points to Haman, who is present at the banquet.

Haman begs for his life, falling on the couch where Esther is reclining. The king, seeing this as an attempt on Esther's honor, orders Haman to be taken away and hanged on the gallows he had built for Mordecai.

After Haman is executed, the king gives his signet ring to Mordecai, appointing him as the new chief advisor. Esther then pleads with the king to revoke the decree against the Jews, but he informs her that this is not possible as the decree, once issued, cannot be revoked. Instead, the king issues a new decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves against anyone who would attack them.

The news of Haman's downfall spreads quickly, and the Jews are filled with joy and celebration. Mordecai becomes a respected figure in the kingdom, and the Jews celebrate their salvation with a holiday called Purim, which is still observed by Jewish communities today.

That's a brief summary of Esther Chapter 7 from the Christian Bible.

Here are some important verses from Esther Chapter 7 in the Christian Bible:

1. "So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther. And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!'" (Esther 7:1-2)
2. "So Esther said, 'The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!' So Haman was terrified before the king and queen." (Esther 7:6)

3. "The king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king." (Esther 7:7)
4. "Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, 'Look, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman.' And the king said, 'Hang him on it!'" (Esther 7:9)

These verses describe the dramatic turning point of the story, as Esther reveals Haman's plot to the king and Haman is exposed as the true enemy. The king is enraged and orders Haman's execution on the very gallows he had built for Mordecai. The chapter ends with the situation for the Jews improving dramatically, as the king issues a new decree allowing them to defend themselves against their enemies.

Chapter 8 of the Book of Esther begins with the king giving Esther and Mordecai permission to write another decree in his name to counteract the one issued by Haman. This new decree allows the Jews to defend themselves against any who would attack them on the 13th day of the 12th month.

Esther then requests that Mordecai be given Haman's estate, and the king grants her request. Esther also reveals that Mordecai is her cousin and that he had raised her like a father after her parents had died.

Mordecai is then appointed as the new chief advisor to the king, taking over Haman's former position. He is given the king's signet ring, which had previously belonged to Haman.

Esther pleads with the king again to revoke the original decree, but he informs her that this is not possible, as the decrees issued by the king cannot be overturned. However, he grants the Jews permission to defend themselves on the day of the attack.

Mordecai then sends out letters to all the provinces, announcing the new decree and urging the Jews to defend themselves against any attackers. The Jews rejoice and celebrate, and many people from other nations become converts to Judaism.

The chapter ends with a description of the Jews' victory over their enemies on the appointed day. The Jews do not take any of their enemies' possessions, but instead, they celebrate their salvation with feasting and joy.

That's a brief summary of Esther Chapter 8 from the Christian Bible.

Here are some important verses from Esther Chapter 8 in the Christian Bible:

1. "On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her." (Esther 8:1)
2. "And Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored him with tears to counteract the evil of Haman the Agagite, and the scheme which he had devised against the Jews." (Esther 8:3)
3. "The king's scribes were called at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day; and it was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded, to the Jews, the satraps, the governors, and the princes of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, one hundred and twenty-seven provinces in

- all, to every province in its own script, to every people in their own language, and to the Jews in their own script and language." (Esther 8:9)
4. "So the Jews accepted the custom which they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them, because Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to annihilate them, and had cast Pur (that is, the lot), to consume them and destroy them." (Esther 8:17)

These verses describe the aftermath of Haman's downfall and the rise of Mordecai and Esther's influence. The king grants them permission to counteract Haman's evil plan, and Mordecai issues a decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves against their enemies. The chapter ends with the Jews accepting this custom and celebrating their newfound freedom.

Chapter 9 of the Book of Esther tells the story of the victory of the Jews over their enemies, as described in the decree issued by the king in the previous chapter. On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the Jews throughout the kingdom assembled and defended themselves against their enemies. They were successful in defeating those who sought to harm them, and many people from other nations converted to Judaism. In Susa, the capital city, the Jews killed 500 men and the ten sons of Haman. Queen Esther requests that the king allow the Jews in Susa to continue fighting for one more day to ensure their safety. The king agrees, and on the fourteenth day of the month, the Jews in Susa kill an additional 300 men.

The Jews then rested and celebrated their victory, establishing a new holiday called Purim. The Jews celebrate this holiday on the 14th and 15th days of Adar, the twelfth month of the Jewish calendar.

Mordecai sends letters throughout the kingdom, instructing the Jews to celebrate Purim every year as a time of feasting, joy, and giving gifts to one another and to the poor. This holiday is still celebrated by Jewish communities today.

The chapter concludes by noting that Esther's story was recorded in the annals of the Persian kings and that Mordecai was second only to King Ahasuerus in power and prominence among the Jews.

That's a brief summary of Esther Chapter 9 from the Christian Bible.

Here are some important verses from Esther Chapter 9 in the Christian Bible:

1. "Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, the time came for the king's command and his decree to be executed. On the day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, the opposite occurred, in that the Jews themselves overpowered those who hated them." (Esther 9:1)
2. "Thus the Jews defeated all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, with slaughter and destruction, and did what they pleased with those who hated them." (Esther 9:5)
3. "And in Shushan the citadel the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. Also Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha," (Esther 9:6)
4. "So the Jews established and imposed it on themselves and their descendants and all who would join them, that without fail they should celebrate these two days

every year, according to the written instructions and according to the prescribed time," (Esther 9:27)

These verses describe the Jews' successful defense against their enemies, as well as their celebration and establishment of the holiday of Purim to commemorate their victory. The Jews defeated their enemies with force, and established a tradition of joy and feasting to celebrate their deliverance. The chapter also includes a list of the enemies slain by the Jews, emphasizing the extent of their victory.

Chapter 10 of the Book of Esther is a brief summary of the accomplishments of King Ahasuerus and Mordecai.

The chapter begins by noting that King Ahasuerus imposed taxes on his kingdom and that these taxes were recorded in the king's official records. The chapter then shifts to focus on Mordecai, noting that he was a Jew and that he had been promoted to a position of great power and authority in the Persian kingdom.

Mordecai is described as being second in power only to the king himself and as being highly respected by the Jews throughout the kingdom. The chapter notes that Mordecai worked for the welfare of his people and that he was instrumental in their salvation from the plot of Haman.

The chapter ends by noting that Esther's story had been recorded in the official records of the Persian kings and that she had become queen of Persia after Vashti had been deposed. That's a brief summary of Esther Chapter 10 from the Christian Bible.

Here is the only verse from Esther Chapter 10 in the Christian Bible:

"And King Ahasuerus imposed tribute on the land and on the islands of the sea." (Esther 10:1)

This verse serves as a concluding statement to the book of Esther. It notes that King Ahasuerus imposed tribute on his empire, emphasizing his continued reign and power. The verse also implies that the Jews were able to maintain their newfound freedom and influence under the king's rule.

Notes:

The book of Esther in the Christian Bible is a narrative of a young Jewish woman who becomes queen of Persia and saves her people from destruction. While the book is primarily a historical account of Esther's bravery and faithfulness, there are a few difficult questions raised in the book that are left unanswered. Here are a few examples:

1. Why did God's name not appear in the book?

The book of Esther is unique in the Bible in that it is the only book in which God's name is not mentioned. This has led some scholars to question why God is absent from the book and whether it undermines the idea of divine intervention in human affairs.

2. Was Esther right to keep her Jewish identity a secret?

Throughout the book, Esther keeps her Jewish identity a secret from her husband, King Xerxes, and from the Persian court. While this ultimately allows her to save her people, it

raises the question of whether she should have been more open about her identity and whether her actions were morally justifiable.

3. What is the message of the book for modern readers?

While the book of Esther has been interpreted in many different ways over the centuries, it is not always clear what the message of the book is for modern readers. Some scholars have argued that the book teaches the importance of courage and faithfulness in the face of adversity, while others see it as a cautionary tale about the dangers of anti-Semitism and the need for vigilance in the face of persecution.

Overall, the book of Esther raises a few difficult questions that are left unanswered.

However, the book's focus on courage, faithfulness, and the power of individuals to make a difference in the world has resonated with readers throughout history.