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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

Es. 1:1 This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, [Hebrew Ahasuerus, a variant of Xerxes' Persian name; here and throughout Esther] the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces

stretching from India to Cush: [That is, the upper Nile region]

Es. 1:2 At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa,

Es. 1:3 and in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. The military leaders of Persia and Media, the princes, and the nobles of the provinces were present.

Es. 1:4 For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendour and glory of his majesty.

Es. 1:5 When these days were over, the king gave a banquet, lasting seven days, in the enclosed garden of the king's palace, for all the people from the least to the greatest, who were in the citadel of Susa.

Es. 1:6 The garden had hangings of white and blue linen, fastened with cords of white linen and purple material to silver rings on marble pillars. There were couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and other costly stones.

Es. 1:7 Wine was served in goblets of gold, each one different from the other, and the royal wine was abundant, in keeping with the king's liberality.

Es. 1:8 By the king's command each guest was allowed to drink in his own way, for the king instructed all the wine stewards to serve each man what he wished.

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Es. 1:9 Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes.

Es. 1:10 On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him — Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Carcas —

Es. 1:11 to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at.

Es. 1:12 But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

Es. 1:13 Since it was customary for the king to consult experts in matters of law and justice, he spoke with the wise men who understood the times

Es. 1:14 and were closest to the king — Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena and Memucan, the seven nobles of Persia and Media who had special access to the king and were highest in the kingdom.

Es. 1:15 "According to law, what must be done to Queen Vashti?" he asked. "She has not obeyed the command of King Xerxes

that the eunuchs have taken to her.”

Es. 1:16 Then Memucan replied in the presence of the king and the nobles, “Queen Vashti has done wrong, not only against the king but also against all the nobles and the peoples of all the provinces of King Xerxes.

Es. 1:17 For the queen’s conduct will become known to all the women, and so they will despise their husbands and say, ‘King Xerxes commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she would not come.’

Es. 1:18 This very day the Persian and Median women of the nobility who have heard about the queen’s conduct will respond to all the king’s nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord.

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Es. 1:19 “Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media, which cannot be repealed, that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she.

Es. 1:20 Then when the king’s edict is proclaimed throughout all his vast realm, all the women will respect their husbands, from the least to the greatest.”

Es. 1:21 The king and his nobles were pleased with this advice, so the king did as Memucan proposed.

Es. 1:22 He sent dispatches to all parts of the kingdom, to each province in its own script and to each people in its own language, proclaiming in each people’s tongue that every man should be ruler over his own household.

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.

The Book of Esther, Chapter 1, provides an intriguing narrative that sets the stage for the events to come. Here's a reflection on the key themes and lessons found in this chapter:

Chapter 1 of the Book of Esther introduces us to the lavish and opulent court of King Ahasuerus (also known as Xerxes I). The chapter begins with a grand display of the king's wealth and power as he hosts a great feast for his nobles and officials, lasting for 180 days. This extravagant celebration demonstrates the vastness of the king's empire and his desire to showcase his splendor and dominance.

In the midst of the festivities, King Ahasuerus calls for Queen Vashti to appear before him and his guests, intending to exhibit her beauty. However, Queen Vashti refuses to obey the king's command, prompting a heated discussion among his advisors on how to handle this act of defiance. Ultimately, the king decides to remove Queen Vashti from her position as queen and issue a decree that all men should be masters in their own households.

One reflection from this chapter revolves around the theme of power and its potential misuse. King Ahasuerus, in his pursuit of displaying his wealth and asserting his authority, reveals a certain arrogance and entitlement. His command for Queen Vashti to appear before him is seen as a symbol of his desire to control and objectify women, rather than treating them with respect and dignity. This raises questions about the responsible use of power and the importance of recognizing the equal worth of all individuals.

Furthermore, the refusal of Queen Vashti to comply with the king's command presents an alternative perspective. Her act of defiance can be seen as an act of bravery and resistance against the oppressive expectations placed upon her. It highlights the significance of personal integrity and standing up against injustice, even when faced with potential consequences.

Additionally, Chapter 1 serves as a prelude to the main story of Esther, introducing us to the political and social dynamics within the Persian court. It sets the stage for the eventual rise of Esther, who becomes the new queen and plays a crucial role in saving her people from destruction. The events in this chapter foreshadow the themes of courage, providence, and the unseen hand of God working behind the scenes, which become more apparent in the subsequent chapters.

In summary, Chapter 1 of the Book of Esther offers reflections on power, gender dynamics, personal integrity, and the unfolding of a larger divine plan. It reminds us of the importance of using power responsibly, treating others with respect, and standing up against injustice.

CHAPTER 2

Es. 2:1 Later when the anger of King Xerxes had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her.

Es. 2:2 Then the king's personal attendants proposed, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king.

Es. 2:3 Let the king appoint commissioners in every province of his realm to bring all these beautiful girls into the harem at the citadel of Susa. Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let beauty treatments be given to them.

Es. 2:4 Then let the girl who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This advice appealed to the king, and he followed it.

Es. 2:5 Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish,

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Es. 2:6 who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin [Hebrew Jeconiah, a variant of Jehoiachin] king of Judah.

Es. 2:7 Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.

Es. 2:8 When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many girls were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem.

Es. 2:9 The girl pleased him and won his favour. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He

assigned to her seven maids selected from the king's palace and moved her and her maids into the best place in the harem.

Es. 2:10 Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so.

Es. 2:11 Every day he walked to and fro near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her.

Es. 2:12 Before a girl's turn came to go in to King Xerxes, she had to complete twelve months of beauty treatments prescribed for the women, six months with oil of myrrh and six with perfumes and cosmetics.

Es. 2:13 And this is how she would go to the king: Anything she wanted was given to her to take with her from the harem to the king's palace.

Es. 2:14 In the evening she would go there and in the morning return to another part of the harem to the care of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. She would not return to the king unless he was pleased with her and summoned her by name.

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Es. 2:15 When the turn came for Esther (the girl Mordecai had adopted, the daughter of his uncle Abihail) to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favour of everyone who saw her.

Es. 2:16 She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal residence in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

Es. 2:17 Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favour and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Es. 2:18 And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed gifts with royal liberality.

Es. 2:19 When the virgins were assembled a second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate.

Es. 2:20 But Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality just as Mordecai had told her to do, for she continued to follow Mordecai's instructions as she had done when he was bringing her up.

Es. 2:21 During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthana [Hebrew Bigthan, a variant of Bigthana] and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.

Es. 2:22 But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen

Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai.

Es. 2:23 And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were hanged on a gallows. [Or were hung (or impaled) on poles; similarly elsewhere in Esther] All this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.

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.

The Book of Esther, Chapter 2, continues the story of Esther and her journey towards becoming the new queen. Here's a reflection on the key themes and lessons found in this chapter:

Chapter 2 begins by recounting how King Ahasuerus, after the incident with Queen Vashti, orders a search for beautiful young virgins throughout his kingdom to find a new queen. Esther, a Jewish orphan living with her cousin Mordecai, is among the young women taken to the palace to undergo a year of beauty treatments before meeting the king. Despite her humble background, Esther finds favor with the eunuch in charge and is chosen as queen, although her Jewish heritage remains concealed.

One reflection from this chapter revolves around the concept of providence and the unseen hand of God. Despite the circumstances, Esther's journey from an orphan to becoming queen aligns with a divine plan. This highlights the idea that even in the midst of uncertainty and difficult situations, God can work behind the scenes to guide and position individuals for a greater purpose. Esther's rise to prominence reminds us of the importance of trusting in God's providence, even when we cannot see the full picture.

Another theme that emerges in Chapter 2 is the courage and faith displayed by Esther and Mordecai. Esther demonstrates great obedience and resilience as she follows the instructions of her cousin, Mordecai, who advises her to keep her Jewish heritage a secret. This decision showcases Esther's wisdom and discernment, understanding the potential risks associated with revealing her identity. Mordecai's guidance and support also highlight the importance of wise counsel and the role of mentors in our lives.

Additionally, this chapter touches on the concept of identity and the tension between our public and private selves. Esther's Jewish heritage becomes a significant part of her identity, and she must navigate the delicate balance of concealing it while fulfilling her duties as queen. This raises questions about authenticity and the challenges we face when aspects of our identity need to be hidden or remain undisclosed. It also reminds us that our true identity is not solely defined by external titles or positions but by our character, values, and relationship with God.

In summary, Chapter 2 of the Book of Esther offers reflections on divine providence, courage, wise counsel, and the complexity of identity. It teaches us to trust in God's guidance, seek wise advice, and remain steadfast in our faith, even when faced with challenging circumstances. It also encourages us to embrace our true identity and remember that our worth is not determined by external factors but by our character and relationship with God.

CHAPTER 3

Es. 3:1 After these events, King Xerxes honoured Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honour higher than that of all the other nobles.

Es. 3:2 All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honour to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honour.

Es. 3:3 Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?"

Es. 3:4 Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply. Therefore they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behaviour would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew.

Es. 3:5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honour, he was enraged.

Es. 3:6 Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

Es. 3:7 In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, they cast the pur (that is, the lot) in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on [Septuagint; Hebrew does not have And the lot fell on.] the twelfth month, the month of Adar.

Es. 3:8 Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom whose customs are different from those of all other people and who do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them.

Es. 3:9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will put ten thousand talents [That is, about 340 tons

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(about 345 metric tons)] of silver into the royal treasury for the men who carry out this business."

Es. 3:10 So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

Es. 3:11 "Keep the money," the king said to Haman, "and do with the people as you please."

Es. 3:12 Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders to the king's satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring.

Es. 3:13 Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews — young and old, women and little children — on a single day,

the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

Es. 3:14 A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so that they would be ready for that day.

Es. 3:15 Spurred on by the king's command, the couriers went out, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was bewildered.

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.

The Book of Esther, Chapter 3, presents a significant turning point in the story, introducing a new antagonist and setting the stage for the conflict that unfolds. Here's a reflection on the key themes and lessons found in this chapter:

Chapter 3 introduces Haman, an influential official in King Ahasuerus' court. After Mordecai, Esther's cousin, refuses to bow down to him due to his Jewish beliefs, Haman becomes filled with anger and seeks revenge not only against Mordecai but against all the Jews throughout the Persian Empire. Haman convinces the king to issue a decree for the destruction of the Jewish people on a designated day, casting lots (or pur) to determine the most auspicious date for this event.

One reflection from this chapter revolves around the theme of prejudice and discrimination. Haman's extreme reaction to Mordecai's refusal to bow down showcases his deep-seated hatred and intolerance towards the Jewish people. This highlights the destructive power of prejudice and serves as a reminder of the harm that can arise when people are targeted and persecuted based on their religion, ethnicity, or any other factor that sets them apart.

Furthermore, this chapter raises important questions about courage and standing up against injustice. Mordecai's refusal to bow down to Haman, despite the potential consequences, shows his unwavering commitment to his faith and principles. It serves as an example of the courage needed to resist oppressive forces and systems. The chapter challenges us to consider how we respond in the face of injustice and whether we are willing to take a stand for what is right, even when it comes at a personal cost.

Another theme that emerges in Chapter 3 is the notion of divine timing and the unfolding of God's plan. The casting of lots (pur) by Haman to determine the date for the destruction of the Jewish people appears to be a random event. However, as the story progresses, it becomes evident that there is a greater purpose at work. This highlights the belief that God is ultimately in control and can use even seemingly insignificant events or circumstances to fulfill His plans.

In summary, Chapter 3 of the Book of Esther offers reflections on prejudice, courage, and the concept of divine timing. It reminds us of the destructive nature of discrimination and the importance of standing up against injustice. It also encourages us to trust in God's providence, even when faced with difficult and seemingly random events. The chapter serves as a call to examine our own attitudes, actions, and willingness to confront injustice in our world.

CHAPTER 4

Es. 4:1 When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.

Es. 4:2 But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no-one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it.

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Es. 4:3 In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Es. 4:4 When Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them.

Es. 4:5 Then Esther summoned Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

Es. 4:6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate.

Es. 4:7 Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews.

Es. 4:8 He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to urge her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

Es. 4:9 Hathach went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said.

Es. 4:10 Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai,

Es. 4:11 "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that he be put to death. The only exception to this is for the king to extend the gold sceptre to him and spare his life. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

Es. 4:12 When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai,

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Es. 4:13 he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape.

Es. 4:14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your

father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Es. 4:15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

Es. 4:16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

Es. 4:17 So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

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.

The Book of Esther, Chapter 4, presents a critical moment in the story where Esther learns of the decree to destroy the Jewish people and must decide whether to risk her own life by approaching the king to plead for their salvation. Here's a reflection on the key themes and lessons found in this chapter:

Chapter 4 begins with Mordecai's reaction upon learning about Haman's plot to annihilate the Jews. Mordecai is filled with grief and distress, tearing his clothes and putting on sackcloth and ashes as signs of mourning. He sends a message to Esther, urging her to intercede with the king on behalf of her people.

One reflection from this chapter revolves around the theme of courage and the willingness to take risks for the greater good. Esther initially hesitates to approach the king, as doing so without being summoned could result in death. However, Mordecai's message encourages her to consider that she has been placed in a position of influence for a reason. Esther recognizes the gravity of the situation and decides to take a stand, declaring, "If I perish, I perish." Her bravery serves as an inspiration, reminding us of the importance of standing up for justice, even when it requires personal sacrifice.

Additionally, Chapter 4 explores the power of unity and communal responsibility. Mordecai's message to Esther emphasizes the interconnectedness of the Jewish people and the need for collective action. He reminds her that her position as queen provides an opportunity to make a difference for their entire community. This highlights the significance of solidarity and the idea that we have a responsibility to support and advocate for others, particularly those facing oppression or injustice.

Furthermore, the chapter raises questions about faith and trust in God's providence. When faced with a seemingly insurmountable challenge, Mordecai turns to Esther with the belief that God has placed her in a position to help. Esther also seeks guidance and support from her fellow Jews, requesting them to fast and pray for three days. This demonstrates the power of faith and the recognition that our actions, though important, must be accompanied by a reliance on God's guidance and intervention.

In summary, Chapter 4 of the Book of Esther offers reflections on courage, unity, and faith. It prompts us to consider the importance of taking risks for the greater good, standing up against injustice, and recognizing our roles in advocating for others. The chapter also reminds us of the significance of community and the power of faith in times

of adversity. It encourages us to trust in God's guidance and to seek support from others as we navigate challenging circumstances.

CHAPTER 5

Es. 5:1 On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance.

Es. 5:2 When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the sceptre.

Es. 5:3 Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you."

Es. 5:4 "If it pleases the king," replied Esther, "let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him."

Es. 5:5 "Bring Haman at once," the king said, "so that we may do what Esther asks." So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared.

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Es. 5:6 As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, "Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

Es. 5:7 Esther replied, "My petition and my request is this:

Es. 5:8 If the king regards me with favour and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfil my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question."

Es. 5:9 Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage against Mordecai.

Es. 5:10 Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home. Calling together his friends and Zeresh, his wife,

Es. 5:11 Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honoured him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials.

Es. 5:12 "And that's not all," Haman added. "I'm the only person Queen Esther invited to accompany the king to the banquet she gave. And she has invited me along with the king tomorrow.

Es. 5:13 But all this gives me no satisfaction as long as I see that Jew Mordecai sitting at the king's gate."

Es. 5:14 His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Have a gallows built, seventy-five feet [Hebrew fifty cubits (about 23 metres)] high, and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai hanged on it. Then go with the king to the dinner and be happy.” This suggestion delighted Haman, and he had the gallows built.

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.

The Book of Esther, Chapter 5, portrays a pivotal moment in the story as Esther prepares to approach the king and make her plea for the salvation of her people. Here's a reflection on the key themes and lessons found in this chapter:

Chapter 5 begins with Esther summoning courage and deciding to approach King Ahasuerus uninvited, which could result in severe consequences, including death. Esther fasts for three days, and on the third day, she dons her royal attire and enters the king's presence. The king, upon seeing Esther, extends his golden scepter, indicating his acceptance of her presence and granting her the opportunity to speak.

One reflection from this chapter revolves around the theme of timing and divine intervention. Esther's decision to fast and seek God's guidance before approaching the king reflects her reliance on divine timing and providence. It is a reminder that there are moments in life when we must patiently wait, seek wisdom, and trust that the right time will come. Esther's obedience and willingness to wait for God's leading demonstrate the importance of aligning our actions with God's plan and timing.

Furthermore, Chapter 5 explores the power of strategic planning and wisdom in navigating difficult situations. Esther does not immediately present her request to the king but instead invites him and Haman to a banquet. This demonstrates her strategic approach in building rapport and setting the stage for her eventual plea. It highlights the importance of discernment and careful planning when dealing with complex circumstances, showcasing how wisdom can be employed to maximize influence and impact.

Another theme that emerges in Chapter 5 is the concept of risk and the potential for unexpected outcomes. Esther takes a great risk by approaching the king uninvited, fully aware of the potential consequences. However, her courage and trust in God's providence are rewarded as the king welcomes her and grants her favor. This reminds us that sometimes, taking bold steps and stepping into the unknown can lead to surprising and positive results. It encourages us to embrace opportunities for growth and change, even when they involve risks or uncertainty.

In summary, Chapter 5 of the Book of Esther offers reflections on timing, wisdom, and risk-taking. It reminds us of the importance of waiting for God's guidance, seeking wisdom in our actions, and trusting in divine providence. It also encourages us to be strategic in our approach to challenges, recognizing the potential for unexpected outcomes when we step out in faith. The chapter serves as a reminder of the power of God's intervention and the rewards that come with aligning our lives with His plans.

CHAPTER 6

Es. 6:1 That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book

of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him.

Es. 6:2 It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.

Es. 6:3 "What honour and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked. "Nothing has been done for him," his attendants answered.

Es. 6:4 The king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows he had erected for him.

Es. 6:5 His attendants answered, "Haman is standing in the court." "Bring him in," the king ordered.

Es. 6:6 When Haman entered, the king asked him, "What should be done for the man the king delights to honour?" Now Haman thought to himself, "Who is there that the king would rather honour than me?"

Es. 6:7 So he answered the king, "For the man the king delights to honour,

Es. 6:8 have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head.

Es. 6:9 Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honour, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honour!'"

Es. 6:10 "Go at once," the king commanded Haman. "Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for

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Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended."

Es. 6:11 So Haman got the robe and the horse. He robed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city streets, proclaiming before him, "This is what is done for the man the king delights to honour!"

Es. 6:12 Afterwards Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman rushed home, with his head covered, in grief,

Es. 6:13 and told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, "Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him — you will surely come to ruin!"

Es. 6:14 While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and hurried Haman away to the banquet Esther had prepared.

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.

[The Book of Esther, Chapter 6](#), presents a pivotal moment in the story where a twist of fate occurs, leading to a reversal of fortunes and setting the stage for the ultimate

downfall of Haman. Here's a reflection on the key themes and lessons found in this chapter:

Chapter 6 begins with King Ahasuerus suffering from insomnia and requesting to have the book of records read to him. It is revealed that Mordecai, who had previously saved the king's life by uncovering a plot against him, has not been rewarded. Just as the king is pondering how to honor Mordecai, Haman enters the court to request permission to have Mordecai hanged on gallows he had prepared. However, before he can present his request, the king asks Haman for advice on how to honor someone deserving of recognition.

One reflection from this chapter revolves around the theme of divine justice and the concept of providential timing. The timing of King Ahasuerus' insomnia and the subsequent reading of the book of records align perfectly with Mordecai's moment of recognition. This demonstrates how God's hand can orchestrate events to bring about justice and overturn the plans of the wicked. It reminds us that even in moments of uncertainty and injustice, God is working behind the scenes to bring about redemption and restoration.

Additionally, Chapter 6 highlights the theme of pride and its eventual downfall. Haman, consumed by his own arrogance and hatred for Mordecai, enters the court with the intention of seeking permission to execute him. However, he is caught off guard when the king asks for advice on honoring someone deserving. This turn of events exposes Haman's pride and sets the stage for his eventual humiliation and downfall. It serves as a reminder of the dangers of unchecked pride and the importance of humility in our interactions with others.

Another lesson that can be drawn from this chapter is the idea of unexpected reversals and the importance of remaining faithful in difficult times. Mordecai, who had been treated unjustly and overlooked for his loyalty, is eventually honored by the king. This demonstrates the principle that those who trust in God and remain steadfast in their faith will ultimately see His faithfulness and vindication. It encourages us to persevere and trust in God's timing, even when circumstances seem unfavorable or unjust.

In summary, Chapter 6 of the Book of Esther offers reflections on divine justice, pride, and unexpected reversals. It reminds us of God's providential timing and His ability to bring about justice and redemption in surprising ways. It also cautions against the dangers of pride and encourages us to remain faithful and humble in all circumstances. The chapter serves as a reminder of the ultimate authority of God and the assurance that He will bring about justice and reward to those who trust in Him.

CHAPTER 7

Es. 7:1 So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther,
Es. 7:2 and as they were drinking wine on that second day, the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be

given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.”

Es. 7:3 Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favour with you, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, grant me my life — this is my petition. And spare my people — this is my request.

Es. 7:4 For I and my people have been sold for destruction and slaughter and annihilation. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.” [Or quiet, but the compensation our adversary offers cannot be compared with the loss the king would suffer]

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Es. 7:5 King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?”

Es. 7:6 Esther said, “The adversary and enemy is this vile Haman.” Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

Es. 7:7 The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden. But Haman, realising that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life.

Es. 7:8 Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, “Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?” As soon as the word left the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face.

Es. 7:9 Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, “A gallows seventy-five feet [Hebrew fifty cubits (about 23 metres)] high stands by Haman’s house. He had it made for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.” The king said, “Hang him on it!”

Es. 7:10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king’s fury subsided.

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.

The Book of Esther, Chapter 7, depicts the climax of the story as Esther reveals Haman's plot to the king and pleads for the salvation of her people. Here's a reflection on the key themes and lessons found in this chapter:

Chapter 7 begins with Esther hosting a second banquet for the king and Haman. During the feast, the king asks Esther what her request is, promising to grant it even up to half of his kingdom. Esther seizes the moment and reveals her Jewish identity, exposing Haman's evil plan to destroy her people. The king, filled with anger, leaves the banquet in fury, while Haman pleads for his life to Esther. In a twist of fate, Haman accidentally falls on Esther's couch, further infuriating the king. Subsequently, Haman is hanged on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai.

One reflection from this chapter revolves around the theme of justice and divine retribution. Haman, who had devised a wicked scheme to annihilate the Jews, faces the consequences of his own evil actions. His downfall serves as a reminder that God is a God of justice, and those who plot harm against His people will ultimately be held accountable. It emphasizes the principle that evil intentions and deeds will not go unpunished, and the wicked will face the consequences of their actions.

Furthermore, Chapter 7 highlights the courage and boldness of Esther in standing up for her people. Esther risks her own safety and reveals her Jewish identity to the king, laying bare the wickedness of Haman's plot. Her actions exemplify the importance of speaking up against injustice and using one's voice and influence to advocate for the marginalized and oppressed. Esther's bravery inspires us to be bold in defending truth and standing against evil, even when it involves personal risk.

Another theme that emerges in Chapter 7 is the concept of divine intervention and the triumph of good over evil. Esther's plea to the king and the subsequent events demonstrate how God works behind the scenes to bring about deliverance and salvation for His people. The downfall of Haman and the preservation of the Jews reflect God's faithfulness and His ability to turn the tables on those who seek to harm His chosen ones. It serves as a reminder that even in the face of great adversity, God can bring about miraculous outcomes.

In summary, Chapter 7 of the Book of Esther offers reflections on justice, courage, and divine intervention. It reminds us of the importance of standing up against evil, knowing that God is a God of justice who will hold the wicked accountable. It also encourages us to be bold in speaking truth and advocating for the oppressed. The chapter serves as a powerful testimony to God's faithfulness and His ability to bring deliverance in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges.

CHAPTER 8

Es. 8:1 That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her.

Es. 8:2 The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman's estate.

Es. 8:3 Esther again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews.

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Es. 8:4 Then the king extended the gold sceptre to Esther and she arose and stood before him.

Es. 8:5 "If it pleases the king," she said, "and if he regards me with favour and thinks it the right thing to do, and if he is pleased with me, let an order be written overruling the dispatches that Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, devised and wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king's provinces.

Es. 8:6 For how can I bear to see disaster fall on my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my family?"

Es. 8:7 King Xerxes replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Because Haman attacked the Jews, I have given his

estate to Esther, and they have hanged him on the gallows.

Es. 8:8 Now write another decree in the king's name on behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king's signet ring — for no document written in the king's name and sealed with his ring can be revoked.”

Es. 8:9 At once the royal secretaries were summoned — on the twenty-third day of the third month, the month of Sivan. They wrote out all Mordecai's orders to the Jews, and to the satraps, governors and nobles of the 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush. [That is, the upper Nile region] These orders were written in the script of each province and the language of each people and also to the Jews in their own script and language.

Es. 8:10 Mordecai wrote in the name of King Xerxes, sealed the dispatches with the king's signet ring, and sent them by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses especially bred for the king.

Es. 8:11 The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate any armed force of any nationality or province that might attack them and their women and children; and to plunder the property of their enemies.

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Es. 8:12 The day appointed for the Jews to do this in all the provinces of King Xerxes was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar.

Es. 8:13 A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

Es. 8:14 The couriers, riding the royal horses, raced out, spurred on by the king's command. And the edict was also issued in the citadel of Susa.

Es. 8:15 Mordecai left the king's presence wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa held a joyous celebration.

Es. 8:16 For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honour.

Es. 8:17 In every province and in every city, wherever the edict of the king went, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them.

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.

[The Book of Esther, Chapter 8, portrays the aftermath of Haman's downfall and Esther's efforts to reverse the decree to destroy the Jewish people. Here's a reflection on the key themes and lessons found in this chapter:](#)

Chapter 8 begins with King Ahasuerus giving Esther and Mordecai authority over Haman's estate. Esther reveals her relation to Mordecai, and the king places the royal signet ring in Mordecai's hand. Esther then approaches the king once more, falling at his feet and pleading for the reversal of the decree that Haman had enacted against the Jews. The king grants her request, allowing her and Mordecai to issue a new decree authorizing the Jews to defend themselves against their enemies.

One reflection from this chapter revolves around the theme of justice and restoration. After the downfall of Haman, Esther and Mordecai are entrusted with power and authority. This highlights the idea that righteousness and integrity ultimately prevail, and those who plot evil will be replaced by those who seek justice. The chapter serves as a reminder that God's hand is at work in turning the tide of events and bringing about redemption and restoration.

Furthermore, Chapter 8 explores the theme of divine intervention and the power of intercession. Esther's plea before the king plays a crucial role in the salvation of the Jewish people. Her courage, persistence, and willingness to approach the king demonstrate the importance of prayerful intervention and seeking God's favor in times of crisis. It reminds us that God can use our prayers and actions to bring about miraculous outcomes and protect His people.

Another theme that emerges in Chapter 8 is the concept of personal responsibility and the call to take action. Esther and Mordecai not only plead for the reversal of the decree but also issue a new decree that allows the Jews to defend themselves against their enemies. This emphasizes the importance of taking a stand against injustice and actively participating in the process of restoration. It teaches us that while we rely on God's providence, we also have a role to play in advocating for righteousness and taking action to bring about positive change.

In summary, Chapter 8 of the Book of Esther offers reflections on justice, divine intervention, and personal responsibility. It reminds us that God's justice prevails, and evil will be overturned. It encourages us to be persistent in our prayers and seek God's favor in times of crisis. The chapter also emphasizes our responsibility to take action against injustice and participate in the process of restoration. It serves as a call to be agents of change and stand up for what is right in the world.

CHAPTER 9

Es. 9:1 On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them.

Es. 9:2 The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those seeking their destruction. No-one could stand against them, because the people of all the other

nationalities were afraid of them.

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Es. 9:3 And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king's administrators helped the Jews, because fear of Mordecai had seized them.

Es. 9:4 Mordecai was prominent in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and he became more and more powerful.

Es. 9:5 The Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and they did what they pleased to those who hated them.

Es. 9:6 In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men.

Es. 9:7 They also killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha,

Es. 9:8 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha,

Es. 9:9 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Vaizatha,

Es. 9:10 the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. But they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

Es. 9:11 The number of those slain in the citadel of Susa was reported to the king that same day.

Es. 9:12 The king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman in the citadel of Susa. What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? It will also be granted."

Es. 9:13 "If it pleases the king," Esther answered, "give the Jews in Susa permission to carry out this day's edict tomorrow also, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on gallows."

Es. 9:14 So the king commanded that this be done. An edict was issued in Susa, and they hanged the ten sons of Haman.

Es. 9:15 The Jews in Susa came together on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and they put to death in Susa three hundred men, but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

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Es. 9:16 Meanwhile, the remainder of the Jews who were in the king's provinces also assembled to protect themselves and get relief from their enemies. They killed seventy-five thousand of them but did not lay their hands on the plunder.

Es. 9:17 This happened on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth they rested and made it a day of feasting and joy.

Es. 9:18 The Jews in Susa, however, had assembled on the thirteenth and fourteenth, and then on the fifteenth they rested and made it a day of feasting and joy.

Es. 9:19 That is why rural Jews — those living in villages — observe the fourteenth of the month of Adar as a day of joy and

feasting, a day for giving presents to each other.

Es. 9:20 Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far,

Es. 9:21 to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar

Es. 9:22 as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote to them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

Es. 9:23 So the Jews agreed to continue the celebration they had begun, doing what Mordecai had written to them.

Es. 9:24 For Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them and had cast the pur (that is, the lot) for their ruin and destruction.

Es. 9:25 But when the plot came to the king's attention, [Or when Esther came before the king] he issued written orders that the evil scheme Haman had devised against the Jews should come back on to his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

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Es. 9:26 (Therefore these days were called Purim, from the word pur.) Because of everything written in this letter and because of what they had seen and what had happened to them,

Es. 9:27 the Jews took it upon themselves to establish the custom that they and their descendants and all who join them should without fail observe these two days every year, in the way prescribed and at the time appointed.

Es. 9:28 These days should be remembered and observed in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city. And these days of Purim should never cease to be celebrated by the Jews, nor should the memory of them die out among their descendants.

Es. 9:29 So Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter concerning Purim.

Es. 9:30 And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews in the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Xerxes — words of goodwill and assurance —

Es. 9:31 to establish these days of Purim at their designated times, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had decreed for them, and as they had established for themselves and their descendants in regard to their times of fasting and lamentation.

Es. 9:32 Esther's decree confirmed these regulations about Purim, and

it was written down in the records.

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.

[The Book of Esther, Chapter 9, portrays the culmination of the conflict and the victory of the Jewish people over their enemies. Here's a reflection on the key themes and lessons found in this chapter:](#)

Chapter 9 begins with the day set for the Jews to defend themselves against their enemies, as authorized by the decree issued by Esther and Mordecai. The Jews successfully defend themselves and emerge victorious over those who sought to harm them. They celebrate their triumph and establish the annual festival of Purim to commemorate their deliverance.

One reflection from this chapter revolves around the theme of deliverance and the faithfulness of God. The victory of the Jewish people over their enemies demonstrates God's faithfulness in protecting and delivering His people. Despite the seemingly insurmountable odds they faced, God provided them with strength and guidance, enabling them to overcome their adversaries. This reminds us that even in our darkest moments, we can trust in God's faithfulness and His ability to bring deliverance in unexpected ways.

Furthermore, Chapter 9 highlights the importance of remembrance and celebrating God's faithfulness. The establishment of the festival of Purim serves as a way for the Jewish people to commemorate their deliverance and express gratitude to God. It serves as a reminder for future generations to remember and celebrate God's interventions in their lives. This teaches us the significance of regularly reflecting on and acknowledging the ways in which God has worked in our lives, both individually and as a community.

Another theme that emerges in Chapter 9 is the concept of unity and the power of collective action. The Jewish people came together in solidarity to defend themselves against their enemies. They stood united and supported one another, resulting in their victory. This underscores the importance of community and working together for a common purpose. It reminds us that when we stand together and support one another, we can overcome challenges and achieve remarkable outcomes.

In summary, Chapter 9 of the Book of Esther offers reflections on deliverance, remembrance, and unity. It reminds us of God's faithfulness in protecting and delivering His people. It encourages us to remember and celebrate God's interventions in our lives. The chapter also highlights the power of unity and the importance of standing together in times of adversity. It serves as a reminder of the significance of community and the potential for collective action to bring about positive change.

CHAPTER 10

Es. 10:1 King Xerxes imposed tribute throughout the empire, to its distant shores.

Es. 10:2 And all his acts of power and might, together with a full account of the greatness of Mordecai to which the king had raised him, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Media and Persia?

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Es. 10:3 Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, pre eminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many

fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews

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.

The Book of Esther, Chapter 10, serves as a brief conclusion to the story, summarizing the impact of Mordecai's rise to power. Here's a reflection on the key themes and lessons found in this chapter:

Chapter 10 provides a summary of Mordecai's achievements and his position of prominence in the kingdom of Persia. It emphasizes his high status and the favor he received from King Ahasuerus. Mordecai's name is praised and celebrated for his role in the salvation of the Jewish people.

One reflection from this chapter revolves around the theme of divine providence and the rewards of faithfulness. Mordecai's ascent to power and recognition can be seen as a result of his faithfulness to his identity as a Jew and his courage in standing up against Haman's plot. It serves as a reminder that God honors those who remain steadfast in their faith, even in challenging circumstances. Mordecai's story demonstrates the principle that those who trust in God and act with integrity can experience His blessings and favor.

Furthermore, Chapter 10 highlights the impact of an individual's actions on the greater community. Mordecai's influence and position of authority allowed him to enact measures that benefited the Jewish people. His rise to power brought about security and prosperity for his people, and his actions had a lasting impact. This teaches us the

significance of individuals who use their positions of influence to advocate for justice, protect the vulnerable, and bring about positive change for their community.

Another theme that emerges in Chapter 10 is the power of remembrance and the importance of passing down stories of deliverance. The chapter concludes by affirming the significance of the events that unfolded, stating that they were recorded in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia. This highlights the role of history and storytelling in preserving the memory of God's faithfulness and the triumphs of His people. It underscores the importance of sharing our testimonies and passing down the stories of God's intervention to future generations.

In summary, Chapter 10 of the Book of Esther offers reflections on divine providence, the impact of individual actions, and the power of remembrance. It reminds us of God's faithfulness and the rewards of remaining steadfast in our faith. It encourages us to use our positions of influence for the betterment of our communities and to pass down stories of deliverance to inspire future generations. The chapter serves as a reminder of the lasting impact of our actions and the significance of remembering and celebrating God's interventions in our lives.

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.