

# **“Contenders and Champions in the Kingdom”**

## **July 2025**

**Pastor Kathon Kelly  
Evg. Stephanie Ward  
Pastor Kevin White**





MARANATHA FAITH TEMPLE

# Contenders and Champions

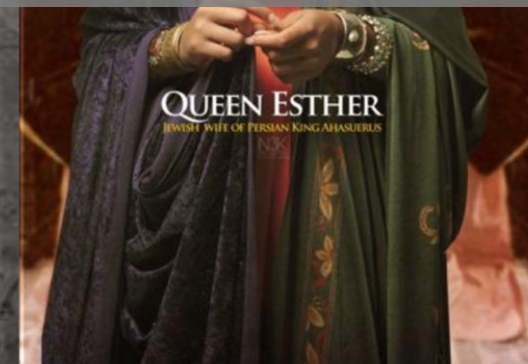
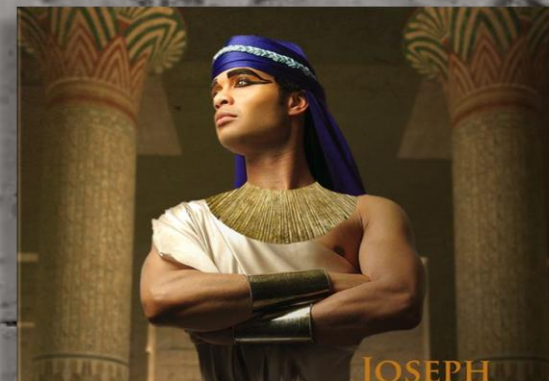
JOHN MARK  
Acts 13

➤ July 6 John Mark

➤ July 13 Joseph

➤ July 20 Mary, the Mother of Jesus

➤ July 27 Esther







Lamassu

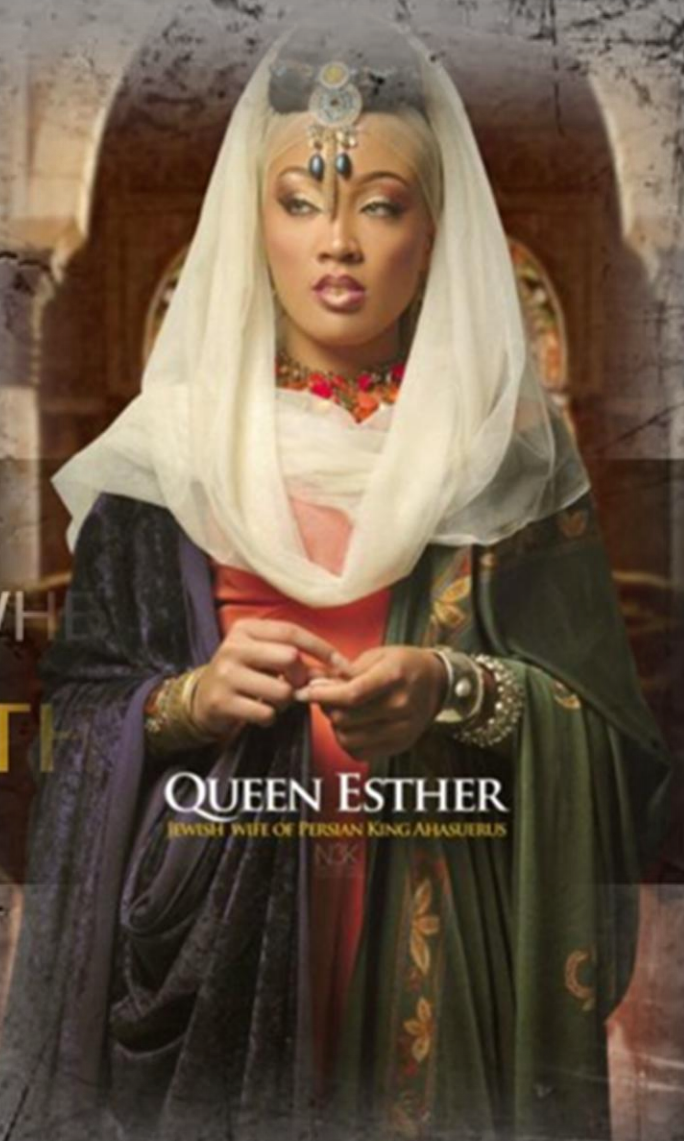
# Esther

EXPLORING THE SCRIPTURES: UNEARTHING WHAT

**"CONTEND FOR THE FAITH"**



FIRST THREE KINGS OF PERSIA: CYRUS → DARIUS



QUEEN ESTHER  
JEWISH WIFE OF PERSIAN KING AHASUERUS





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# Esther, Persian Queen

Lesson 4 July 27, 2025

Lesson 4: Esther 1:5-8, Esther 1:9-13, Esther 1:17-21, Esther 2:5-14, Esther 2:19-23, Esther 3:1-5, Esther 3:6-1,  
Esther 4:12-17, Esther 7:1-10, Esther 9:29-32, Esther 10:1-3

## Outline

I. The Feasts of Xerxes (1:1;2:18)

Vashti Deposed (ch.1)

Esther Made Queen (2:1-18)

The Feasts of Esther (2:19;7:10)

Mordecai Uncovers a Plot (2:19-23)

Haman's Plot (ch.3)

Mordecai Persuades Esther to Help (ch.4)

Esther's Request to the King: Her First Banquet (5:1-8)

A Sleepless Night (5:9;6:14)

Haman Hanged: Esther's Second Banquet (ch.7)

The Feasts of Purim (ch.8-10)

The King's Edict in Behalf of the Jews (ch.8)

The Institution of Purim (ch.9)

The Promotion of Mordecai (ch.10)





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# Esther, Persian Queen

Lesson 4 July 27, 2025



## Esther 1:5-8 Vashti Refuses and the King

1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)

2 That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace,

3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him:

4 When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days.

5 And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;

6 Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.

7 And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king.

8 And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.





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# Esther, Persian Queen

Lesson 4 July 27, 2025



## Esther 1:9-13

<sup>9</sup> Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus.

<sup>10</sup> On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,

<sup>11</sup> To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.

<sup>12</sup> But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:

## Esther 1:17-21

<sup>17</sup> For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.

<sup>18</sup> Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.

<sup>19</sup> If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.

<sup>20</sup> And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.

<sup>21</sup> And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan:

# Esther, Persian Queen

Lesson 4

July 27, 2025

## Esther 2:5-14

5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;

6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.

9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.

10 Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.

11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.

12 Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;)

13 Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house.

14 In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by





# Esther, Persian Queen

Lesson 4 July 27, 2025



## Esther 2:19-23- Contender

<sup>19</sup>And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate.

<sup>20</sup>Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.

<sup>21</sup>In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

<sup>22</sup>And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name.

<sup>23</sup>And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.

## Esther 3:1-5

<sup>1</sup>After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.

<sup>2</sup>And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.

<sup>3</sup>Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?

<sup>4</sup>Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew.

<sup>5</sup>And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.





# Esther, Persian Queen

## Lesson 4 July 27, 2025



### Esther 3:6-1- Contender

<sup>6</sup>And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.

<sup>7</sup>In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

<sup>8</sup>And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them.

<sup>9</sup>If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.

<sup>10</sup>And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.

### Esther 4:12-17

<sup>12</sup>And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

<sup>13</sup>Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

<sup>14</sup>For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

<sup>15</sup>Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

<sup>16</sup>Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

<sup>17</sup>So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.



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# Esther, Persian Queen

## Lesson 4 July 27, 2025



### Esther 7:1-10

<sup>1</sup> So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

<sup>2</sup> And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.

<sup>3</sup> Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:

<sup>4</sup> For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.

<sup>5</sup> Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?

<sup>6</sup> And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

<sup>7</sup> And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

<sup>8</sup> Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

<sup>9</sup> And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.

<sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.





MARANATHA FAITH TEMPLE

# Esther, Persian Queen

## Lesson 4 July 27, 2025



### Esther 9:29-32

<sup>29</sup>Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim.

<sup>30</sup>And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth,

<sup>31</sup>To confirm these days of Purim in their times appointed, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry.

<sup>32</sup>And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book.

### Esther 10:1-3

<sup>1</sup>And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea.

<sup>2</sup>And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?

<sup>3</sup>For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.