

When the appointed day came, the Jews won. The feast of Purim is in December and celebrates this.

Whew. Complicated story.

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells some stories, parables, that illustrate spiritual things. The disciples mention that he always spoke in parables.

Truth is, Jesus is also Jehovah (compare Zech. 12:10 to Rev. 1:7). As he always told parables to teach spiritual truths as Jesus, as Jehovah he orchestrated parables with kingdoms and people throughout the Old Testament.

This story is an incredible prophesy, a parable, about events that would happen when Christ came.

Jesus explained the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:19, and I am going to explain the parable of Esther now.

Think of the King as God, Esther and Jews as God's People, Haman as Satan, Mordecai as Jesus or Jehovah.

1. At the time of Jesus, Satan had plotted via the Jewish leadership to kill Jesus by hanging him on a cross. Instead, Satan was hung on it. Sure, Jesus died on the cross, but He rose again. It was Satan that was defeated there instead.

2. After being resurrected, Jesus was promoted to the heavenly Prime Minister position, which is what Satan, Haman, had once had.

3. The law condemning the Jews to death is like the Bible law, The Soul that Sins Shall Die. But the Jews were allowed to defend themselves, and that corresponds to God supplying a Sacrifice, and if anyone sins, he has an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

4. The king was grieved when he heard about the tremendous loss of life on the day the Jews defended themselves. (Esther 9:12) God is concerned about the loss of life both by sin and by judgment for sin. It isn't

God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

5. The king found Haman laying with his wife. We know the end result of that kind of union is a kid, so he became furious. That portrays God's rage at thinking Satan would try to have any fruit from the life of a Christian. All things work together for good--(Rom. 8:28) not because we Christians are cool, but because God refused to let Satan have any fruit from our lives.

6. Haman had to parade Mordecai around, who was dressed in royal robes and seated on the royal steed. During the years of Jesus' public ministry, Satan was coming at Jesus all the time with diseases, demons, and Jewish leaders trying to trap him. Jesus beat him up publicly at every event, and all it did was make Jesus look good everywhere he went. He might as well have been parading him around on the royal horse saying, "This is what the King does to the one he wants to honor."

This is an amazing prophesy of God replacing the Jews with Christianity, then humiliating Satan and promoting Jesus.

This was part of Scripture 500 years before Jesus was born! Yet it deals with some of the most profound truths that God has bothered to reveal to us.

The Jews didn't know they were recording and protecting their own death sentence.

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Otumba, Mex, Mexico
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Esther, Queen of Persia

The Book of Esther

God had threatened the Israelites that if they became very involved in sin, he would send a nation to punish them and take them captive.

So that's what happened.

Around 600 BC two different countries beat them up and hauled them off as slaves. We think of slaves as losers, but the Babylonians were smarter than that. They took the cream of the crop.

A number of them ended up in leadership positions in the kingdom.

The Book of Esther takes place in Susa (Sushan-- spelled differently in different languages.)

King Ahazuarus, also known as Xerxes, was throwing a party for officials of his 127 provinces, spread out from Ethiopia to India.

While the king was throwing his party, Queen Vashti was throwing her own party! Est 1:9

The king, drunk, wanted to show off Vashti's beauty to his people. v 10-11, but Vashti refused. v 12

The king was furious and asked his counselors what he should do. They said, get rid of her and get another queen. v 19

Later it dawned on the king that he didn't have a wife any more (duh.) So he

held a royal beauty contest to pick a new one.

Esther was the big winner. She and her uncle, Mordecai, were Jews who had been led captive from Israel. There are more details in the chapter in the Bible but these are the basics.

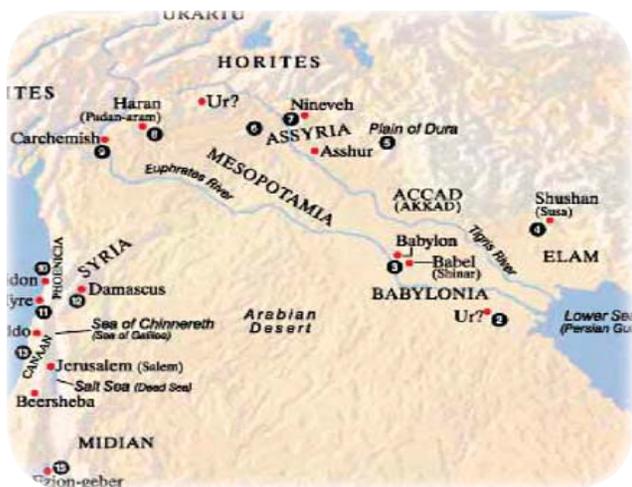
Whenever the Bible talks about a King or Queen, it might be a type, an example of something that relates to God or Jesus, the King of Kings, and his

Bride, the church (composed of all Christians.) So in this section, think of it as God, who tried to show off the beauty of his bride, his people, but the bride refused. The Jews by Jesus' time had become very exclusive and wouldn't hang out or eat with non-Jews. God's intent had been to show off his goodness through the Jews, but no one could see it. So He replaced them with Christians, his current bride.

This is also pictured when Jesus changed water to wine. That happened before Jesus started his public ministry and tells what he is about to do over the next few years. The new wine is definitely better than the old wine.

The next section gets more complicated. Mordecai uncovered a plot to kill the king, it was investigated and the two guys who plotted that were killed. But Mordecai was not rewarded.

A guy named Haman was promoted to prime minister. Est 3:1 Everyone bowed to Haman



to honor him, except Mordecai who wouldn't bow to him because he was a Jew-- he would bow to God only.

This kept happening so Haman got furious and wanted to kill him. Better yet, he decided to kill all the Jews in the kingdom.

Est 3:8 Haman then spoke with King Xerxes: "Go ahead," the king said" Est 3:13 Bulletins were sent out with orders to kill all the Jews on a single day, and to plunder their goods.

Mordecai explained to Esther that she was included in that, even being queen, so she would die with everyone else. But as queen she could ask the king to fix the problem. So they fasted and prayed before she entered the presence of the king.

Esther invited the King and Haman to a banquet at that moment. They went and the king asked what she wanted, so she invited them both to a banquet the next day. Da boys are intrigued.

Haman was happy that day after leaving the banquet (Esther 5:9) But he saw that Mordecai didn't bow to him and became furious. At home he bragged about how important he was to be the only one invited to a banquet with the king and Esther. Then he complained about Mordecai.

His wife and friends said to build a gallows 75 feet high and hang him on it. That was a good idea to Haman so he had the gallows built.

Early the next morning Haman went to the palace to ask the king permission to hang Mordecai.

Esther 6 That night king couldn't sleep, so he had a servant read from the royal diary. When he was reminded of Mordecai saving him, he said, what reward did I give him for that? None, boss.

Then the king said, who is in the courtyard? Haman had just entered to ask if he could hang Mordecai. The king said, bring him in. Then he asked Haman what should be done for someone the king wants to honor. Haman was sure the king wanted to honor him, so said parade him around the city wearing royal robes, riding

on a royal horse and announce how cool he is.

King said, good idea, do that for Mordecai at once.

So Haman had to parade Mordecai around the city. And everyone knew Mordecai was the only one who wouldn't bow to Haman-- it bugged Haman a lot.

Haman told this story to his wife and friends, and they told him, if Mordecai is a Jew, your bad luck is just starting. While they were "encouraging" him like this, the king's servants came to get him for the banquet.

Esther 7 At the banquet were Esther, the King, and Haman. King said, what do you want. I will give you up to half the kingdom! She said, someone wants to kill my people. King said, That's horrible! What monster would do such a thing? Esther pointed to Haman.

The King was furious, and stepped out onto his patio to think a minute. Haman was his Prime Minister but he had just promised Esther!

Haman pleaded with Esther. Since they reclined while eating, he had to lay down beside her to plead with her.

The king came back in and saw Haman lying with her. Est. 7:8 Then he really got mad! Will you lie with my wife in front of me?

The servants said, he built a gallows to hang Mordecai, the man who saved your life, king.

The King said, hang him on it.

So they did and the King's anger was satisfied.

Mordecai was promoted to Prime Minister in Haman's place, and Esther was given Haman's estate.

The message sent out to kill the Jews was in a manner that could not be repealed, so they made another edict that the Jews could defend themselves and plunder their enemies.