

Missionaries – Part 6

Esther and Mordecai

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on Missionaries. Our topic today: Esther and Mordecai

Scripture Theme Song: “You are a Chosen Generation” (1 Peter 2:9)

- 1) Showdown in the Persian court
 - a) Esther 1:10-12
 - b) Esther 1:16-2:1
 - c) Who is the hero in this story?
 - d) What lesson can we learn from Vashti’s experience?
 - e) Is God involved in the ousting of Vashti or will God simply choose to work good in the midst of this bad situation? (Romans 8:28)
- 2) The selection of a replacement for Vashti
 - a) Esther 2:1-10
 - i) What aspects of this story concern you?
 - ii) Is Esther acting in a dishonest way? (John 16:12; Matthew 10:16; Ecclesiastes. 3:1,7b)
 - b) Esther 2:15-20
 - c) How can you know if you are exercising discretion in not speaking openly about your faith rather than demonstrating a lack of courage?
- 3) Living Conscientiously
 - a) Esther 2:21-23
 - b) Why is it important to earn someone’s confidence before sharing spiritual truth?
- 4) Time to speak and live boldly
 - a) Esther 3:1-6
 - b) Esther 4:7-9
 - c) Esther 4:10-12
 - d) Esther 4:13-17
 - e) Do you notice a change in Esther’s response to her cousin Mordecai?
- 5) Time to be Silent, Wait, and then Speak
 - a) Esther 5:1-8 Why doesn’t Esther expose Haman’s evil plot at this first banquet with the king?
 - b) 6:1-3; 7:1-6
- 6) Acting boldly
 - a) Esther 8:7-8, 11
 - b) The Jews were given permission to defend themselves and their families and to kill, if necessary, those who tried to assault them.
 - c) Esther 9:16 – 75,000 of their enemies were killed. Does that trouble you? Did the Jews go beyond what was necessary and retaliate against those who had planned to kill them, or were these enemies killed while they were trying to attack the Jews?
- 7) How did this great deliverance of the Jewish people impact non-Jews? Esther 10:2-3
- 8) Why is the book of Esther included in the OT canon?
 - a) Name of God is not mentioned.
 - b) No mention of prayer, worship, or forgiveness.
 - c) What important lessons can we learn about being missionaries from the story of Esther and Mordecai?