

## The Quiet Queen

There once was a woman named Esther. Esther's parents died when she was very young, so she was raised by her uncle, Mordecai. Esther and Mordecai were Jews who loved God and tried to follow His rules, but they lived in a place where not many people were Jewish. Not even the king followed God's rules. At this time, the king was looking for a queen. He called for all the beautiful women in his kingdom to be brought to his palace. Esther was very beautiful, so she was picked to go before the king. Before she left to go to the palace, Mordecai told her not to tell anyone that she was Jewish. Esther kept that secret, and the king picked her to be his queen. He placed a beautiful crown upon her head.

Just after Esther became queen, the king picked a new Prime Minister named Haman. Haman thought he was very important, and he made a rule that everyone had to bow down to him. Esther's uncle, Mordecai, refused to bow down to him because that was against God's rules. When Haman found out that Mordecai refused to bow, he got very mad. He wanted to kill Mordecai, in fact he wanted to kill all Jewish people because of what they believed. Haman went to the king. He told the king that the Jewish people would cause trouble because of their love for God and the king needed to get rid of them. The king gave Haman lots of money and his ring and told him

to make whatever rules he needed to make and then stamp it with the ring so that it would become the law. Haman made a law to kill all the Jews. To decide what day he would do it, he rolled dice and whatever showed up on the dice would be the day that he would do this very bad thing.

When Mordecai found out he was so upset, he ripped his clothes and cried. Esther found out and sent new clothes to Mordecai, but Mordecai didn't want the new clothes. He sent a message back telling Esther why he was so upset and asking her to help her people. When Esther got the message, she wasn't sure what to do. She wasn't allowed to talk to the king unless he called for her. If she tried to talk to him without his permission, she could be killed. She sent a message back to Mordecai telling him to gather all the Jewish people to pray for her and this dangerous job that she had to do. So, for three days, the Jewish people only prayed, they didn't eat, they only prayed.

The next day, Esther was very brave, and she went to the king. The king looked up and saw her. He pointed his scepter towards her which meant he was giving her permission to talk to him. He asked her what she wanted. She didn't tell him but she invited him and Haman to come to a meal that she was preparing just for them. That night the king and Haman went to the meal and the king asked her again what it was that she wanted. She answered him

saying that she wanted him and Haman to come to another meal that she was going to prepare for them the next night.

The next night at the meal, Esther was very brave. She told the king that someone was planning to kill her and all of her people. The king asked her who was trying to do such a horrible thing. Esther told the king that it was Haman. He was trying to kill all the Jews and she was a Jew. The king knew he had been tricked by Haman. He had Haman killed and made a new law so the Jewish people could protect themselves the day the dice said it would be fight day. God helped the Jewish people when others wanted to hurt them. Because Esther was brave and stood up for her people, God saved the Jewish people.

1. Who raised Esther?
2. Why was Esther picked to go to the palace?
3. What did Mordecai tell Esther not to tell anyone at the palace?
4. Who did the king pick to be his queen?
5. Who did the king pick to be the prime minister?
6. What bad rule did Haman make that Mordecai did not follow?
7. What rule did Haman trick the king into making?
8. What was the message that Mordecai sent to Esther about her people?
9. What was Esther's secret plan to talk to the king?
10. What happened when Esther told the king that Haman was trying to kill her and her people?