

The background is a dark blue gradient with a starry texture. On the left side, there are several overlapping circular elements. A prominent one is a large arc with a scale from 140 to 260. Other circles contain partial arcs and arrows, suggesting a circular or cyclical theme. The overall aesthetic is technical and futuristic.

# Queen Esther

St. Abanoub

# THE PERSIAN KING AND THE QUEEN

- Long ago, in a country called Persia (Babylon), there was a king named Xerxes –“Artek-Ses” and a queen named Vashti.
- King ordered his wife the queen to appear before him at a party so he could show everyone how pretty she was.
- When she refused, the king was furious.



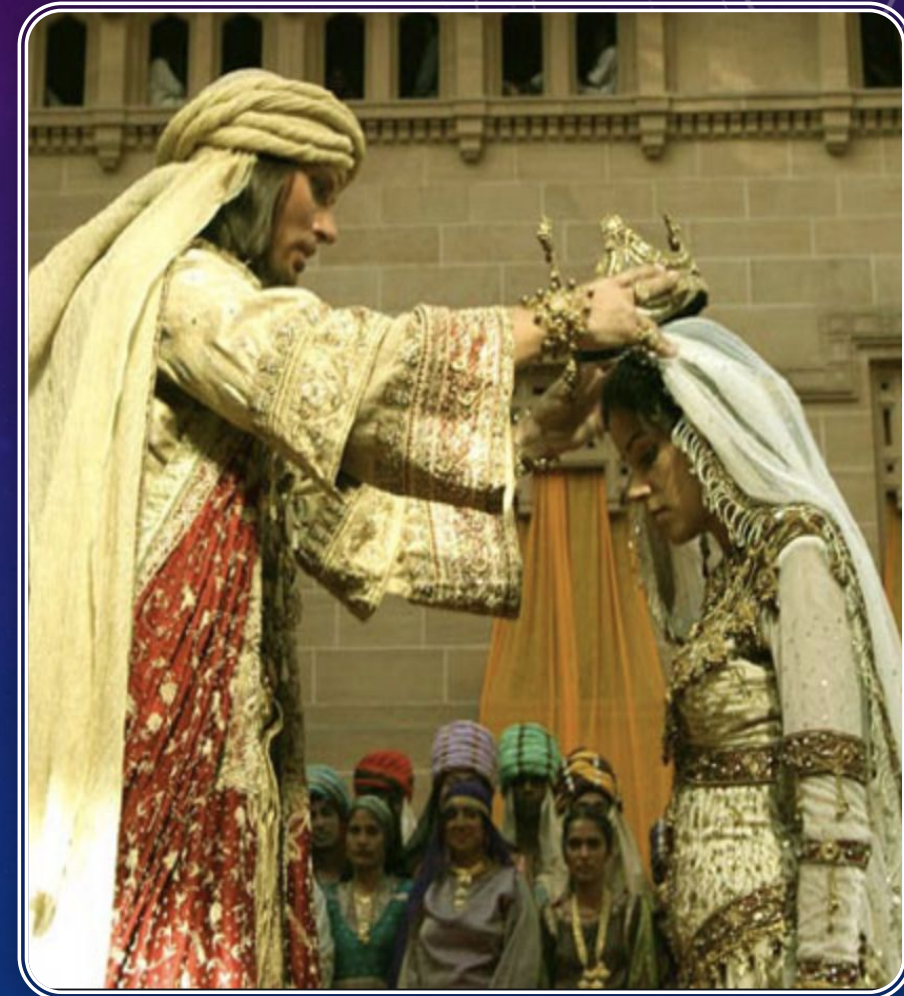
# HAMAN AND HIS ILL ADVICE

- One of the King's advisors named Haman was a rather nasty man. To make matters worse, Haman teased the king that if word got around, no one's wife would think she had to listen to her husband.
- At Haman's urging, King Xerxes ordered that his wife will not be a queen anymore.
- The King wasn't happy for long without a queen, so he ordered a search through the kingdom for a beautiful girl to be his bride.



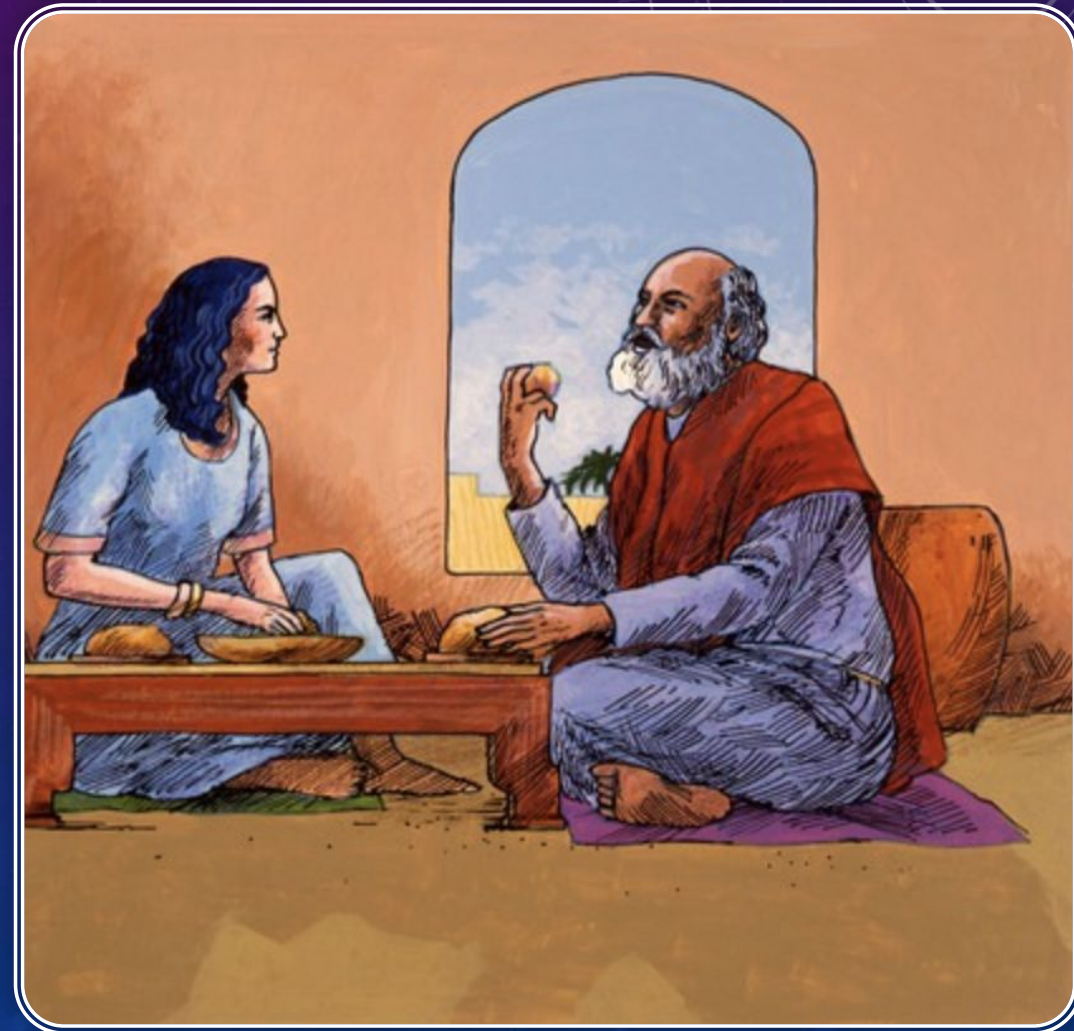
# ESTHER THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL

- There was a beautiful girl named Esther (“Aster”). When her father and mother died, Esther's cousin Mordecai brought her up. Esther honored her cousin by obeying him as a good daughter.
- Esther lived in Persia. But, she was not Persian. She was Jewish. Her ancestors came to Persia as prisoners of war. In Esther's day, many Jews lived in Persia.
- It wasn't too long before the King's searchers happened upon Esther. Esther was beautiful, gracious and kind -- just what the king was looking for. In no time at all, Esther was married to the king



# MORDECHAI -- ESTHER'S UNCLE

- Esther's uncle Mordechai, was the leader of the Jews.
- Since Esther was a Jew and she is married to a Persian King, her Uncle Mordechai advised her to hide her faith from the King and his advisors, which she did.
- Mordecai spent his time at the entrance to the palace to hear news of Esther.
- One day he overheard two palace servants planning to murder the king. Mordecai sent a warning which saved the king's life. The servants were hanged, and Mordecai's name was written in the king's record book.



# HAMAN TRICKED THE KING TO SIGN A LAW

- Haman had become a powerful man in the kingdom. He decided that given his rise in power, it would be appropriate for everyone to bow down to him. But Mordechai refused to bow down to him.
- Haman was very angry! He hated Mordecai so much he decided to kill him and all the Jews in Persia. How dreadful!
- Wicked Haman tricked the king into signing a law that at a certain time every Jew in the kingdom would be killed.
- There would be no place to run, and no place to hide.



# Esther

## Vashti Deposed

...what happened during the time of  
...the Xerxes who ruled over 127  
...stretching from India to Cush<sup>b</sup>.<sup>2</sup>At  
...King Xerxes reigned from his royal  
...the citadel of Susa,<sup>3</sup>and in the third  
...he gave a banquet for all his  
...officials. The military leaders of  
...Media, the princes, and the nobles  
...were present.

...for 180 days he displayed the vast  
...his kingdom and the splendor and  
...his majesty. When these days were  
...king gave a banquet, lasting seven  
...the enclosed garden of the king's palace  
...the people from the least to the  
...who were in the citadel of Susa. The  
...hangings of white and blue linen,  
...with cords of white linen and purple  
...silver rings on marble pillars. There  
...of gold and silver on a mosaic  
...of porphyry, marble, mother-of-  
...other costly stones. Wine was served  
...of gold, each one different from the  
...the royal wine was abundant, in  
...the king's liberality. By the king's  
...each guest was allowed to drink in  
...y, for the king instructed all the wine  
...to serve each man what he wished.  
...Vashti also gave a banquet for the  
...the royal palace of King Xerxes.

...seventh day, when King Xerxes was  
...drinks from wine, he commanded the  
...eunuchs who served him—Mehuman,  
...Arbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and  
...to bring before him Queen Vashti,  
...her royal crown, in order to display her  
...to the people and nobles, for she was  
...look at.<sup>12</sup>But when the attendants  
...the king's command, Queen Vashti  
...refused to come. Then the king became furious  
...with anger.

...was customary for the king to con-  
...in matters of law and justice, he  
...the wise men who understood the  
...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.

<sup>15</sup>“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.”

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.’  
<sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>“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 re-  
pealed, 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. <sup>20</sup>Then when the king’s edict is pro-  
claimed throughout all his vast realm, all the  
women will respect their husbands, from the  
least to the greatest.”

<sup>21</sup>The king and his nobles were pleased with  
this advice, so the king did as Memucan  
proposed. <sup>22</sup>He sent dispatches to all parts of  
the kingdom, to each province in its own script  
and to each people in its own language, pro-  
claiming in each people’s tongue that every  
man should be ruler over his own household.

## Esther Made Queen

**2** Later when the anger of King Xerxes had  
subsided, he remembered Vashti and what  
she had done and what he had decreed about  
her. <sup>2</sup>Then the king’s personal attendants  
proposed, “Let a search be made for beautiful

# THE NEW LAW

- It was a terrible law. Both Jews and Persians mourned.
- But remember - God had made Esther the queen. And she was a Jewish.
- Would she keep her secret from the king? Or, would she risk death to try and save her people?

<sup>a</sup>Carshena, a variant of Xerxes' name; here and throughout Esther

<sup>b</sup> That is, the upper Nile region



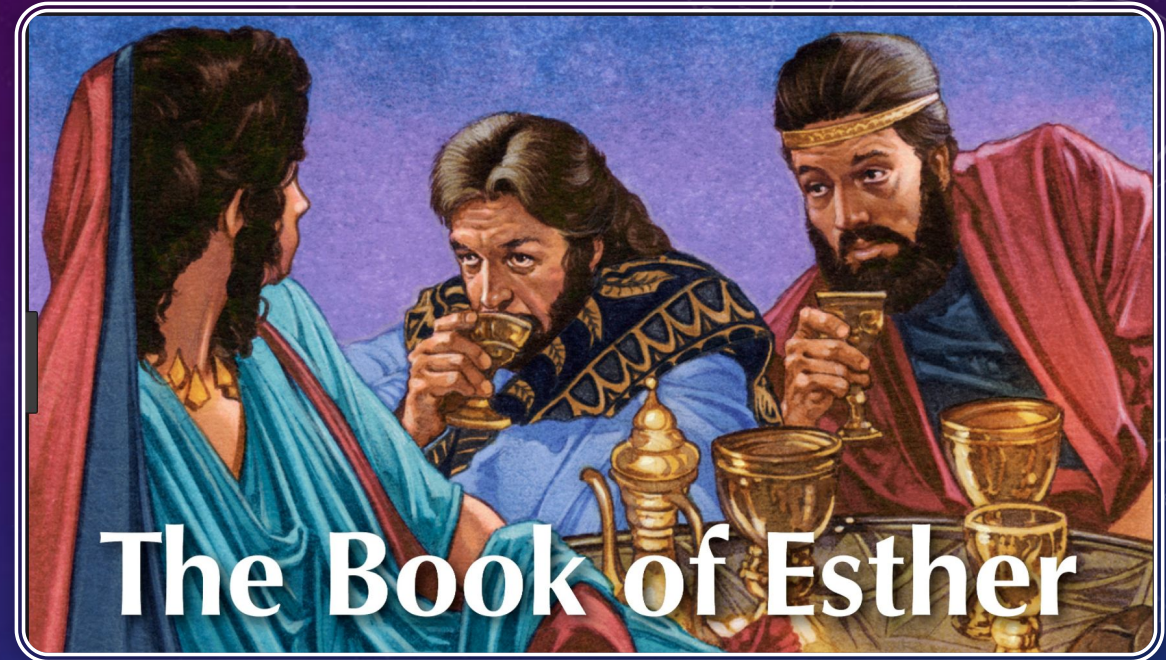
## ESTHER'S FASTING AND PRAYER

- Mordechai, having found out about Haman's evil intentions, he sent Esther a message. He told her what Haman was plotting and asked her to go to the King on the Jews behalf.
- Esther was afraid. She hadn't been allowed to see the King for a month. In fact, no one could see him without being invited.
- But she **fasted and prayed for three days**, mustered up her courage and went to see the king.
- Although he was initially angry at her, King Xerxes spared her life and offered "half my kingdom for your wishes,"



# ESTHER AND HER REQUEST

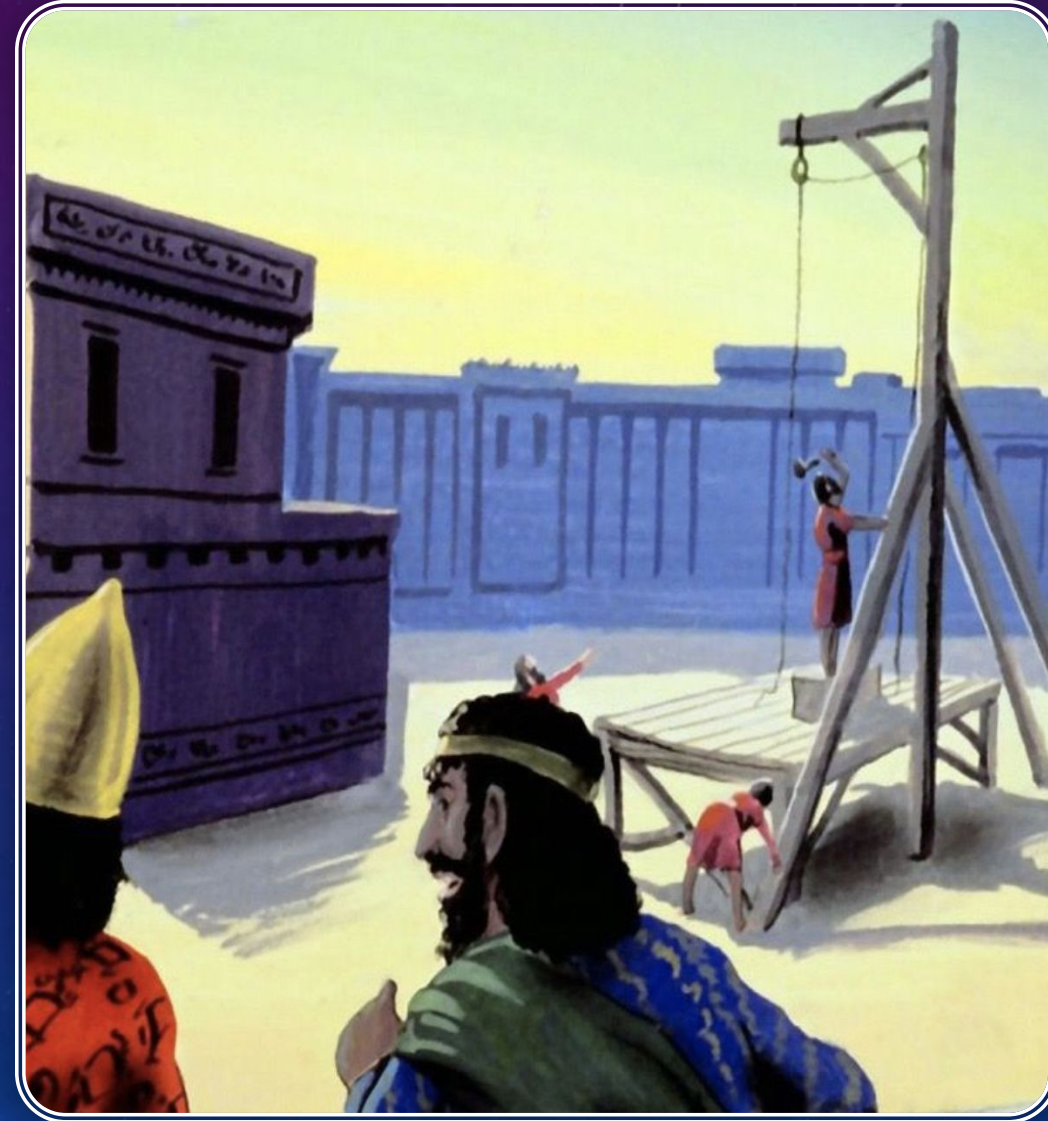
- All she asked was that the King and Haman join her for dinner that night.
- As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, "Now what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."
- Esther replied, "My petition and my request is this:
  - If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill 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."
  - Of course, both the King and Haman agreed to attend a second banquet with the lovely young Queen.



**The Book of Esther**

# HAMAN BUILT A GALLOWS

- Haman was very pleased that he'd been asked to dine with King Xerxes and Esther two nights in a row and was filled with pride.
- But then he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and still Mordecai refused to bow to him.
- Haman was filled with rage. He decided that night to build a gallows with which to hang Mordechai and planned to speak to the king about it the very next morning.
- That way, he'd have the whole matter dealt with during the day and be able to enjoy the next evening's banquet in peace.





## MORDECAI IN THE KING'S BOOK

- That same 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.
- The book was turned to the day Mordecai exposed a plot to assassinate the King.
- The King was reminded of this tale and asked what reward Mordecai had received.
- The king's attendants told him that nothing had been done for Mordecai.

# THE MAN THE KING DELIGHTS TO HONOR

- The next morning, just as Haman was arriving to ask that Mordecai be hanged the king asked him,
  - "What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?"
- Haman, still filled with pride, mistakenly thought the king was referring to him. So he answered the king,
  - "For the man the king delights to honor, 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.
  - 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 honor, 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 honor!"



# MORDECAI WAS HONORED

- Imagine Haman's shock when the King commanded,
  - "Go at once. Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate."
- Haman obeyed the king, of course, but not happily!
- He was very upset that Mordecai, his enemy, was being honored by the king.
- Immediately after leading Mordecai around the city proclaiming, "This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!", Haman had to go to the banquet with the King and Queen.



# ESTHER SAVED HER PEOPLE!

- Finally Esther shared the secret of her faith and proclaimed herself a Jew. She begged the king to spare her people.
- Harbona, one of the king's attendants told the king of the gallows that Haman had built to have Mordecai hanged.
- The king was furious with Haman and ordered that he be hanged on those gallows.
- Haman's pride and cruelty had led to his own destruction and the brave, young Esther had saved her people.



# THE MORAL OF THE STORY

- What is your definition of courage? If you think that courage means being brave and following God even if you're completely scared, then we learn a lot from Esther .
- God Has Placed Us Where We are for a Reason.
- God is Always at Work Behind the Scenes
- The People around You Matter – always surround yourself with good and wise people. Stay away from bad people!