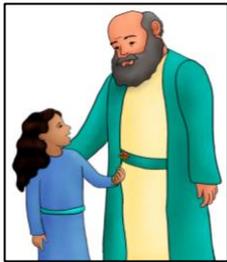


Video:  
[biblestoriesonline.com/stories/Esther-Queen-For-A-Reason](http://biblestoriesonline.com/stories/Esther-Queen-For-A-Reason)

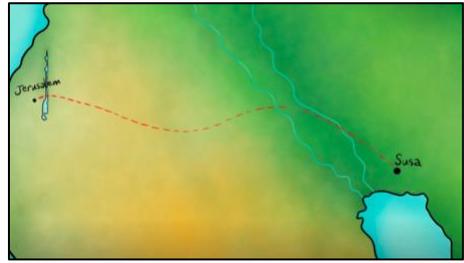


### Lesson #13: ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN FOR A REASON (Esther 1-4)



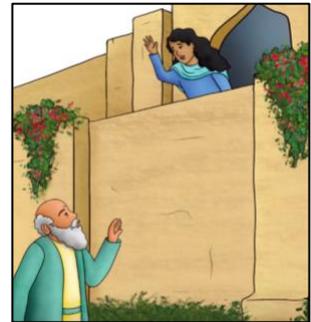
The Bible tells about a Jewish girl Esther. Her parents died when she was a child. But she wasn't alone, her uncle Mordecai took care of her and loved her like his very own daughter.

Mordecai and Esther were Israelites, but they lived far away from Jerusalem (since Nebuchadnezzar destroyed it). They lived in the nation of Persia, the city of Susa.



Messengers came giving orders: "King Xerxes of Persia is searching the land for a new queen, so we are going to pick some of the young ladies to take to his palace so he can choose a new queen." They said Esther had to come with them.

Even though Mordecai couldn't be with Esther now, he was going to stay as close to her as he could. Every day, Mordecai would walk back and forth by the palace gate to see how Esther was doing. He wanted her to be safe and he warned her not to tell anyone that she was a Jew (sometimes Israelites are also called Jews or Hebrews).



Meanwhile, Esther waited for her turn to go before the king. She started getting special attention from the king's helper. Everyone liked Esther.



When King Xerxes finally got to meet Esther, he REALLY liked her! He declared, "She's the one! Esther is my queen!"

The king had a counselor named Haman. A counselor is someone who is supposed to help the king make wise decisions. But this counselor, Haman, was very prideful and mean.



One day, Haman went through the city gate. All the people bowed down to him. All except Mordecai. Mordecai would only bow down to God. This made Haman mad!

Haman started planning a way to hurt Mordecai and the other Israelites who lived in Persia. He came up with a way to trick the king. "O King," Haman said, "there are some living in the land who don't obey you. I want to make a rule to get rid of these enemies."



The King agreed to the new law. Haman was happy. The rule stated that on one certain day, all the people of Persia could hurt, kill and take the stuff of any Israelites. Mordecai was very sad.

Mordecai sent a message to Queen Esther. "We need her to go to the king and beg him for your life and for the lives of all our people! Esther, you won't be safe just because you are queen! Perhaps this is the reason why you were made queen was for this time, this place, this reason!"



Esther said "There's a rule in the palace. If I go to see the king without him asking for me to come, then I will die. Only if he extends his scepter toward me will I be allowed to live." She said, "Mordecai, please ask all of our people to pray. Let's not eat or drink anything for 3 days. Then, even though it's against the rules, I will go to the king."

Esther was going to have to be courageous to do the job God gave her, wasn't she?! We will learn more about Esther in our next lesson.



PRIMARY GRADES ACTIVITY  
Color Queen Esther



ESTHER

UPPER GRADES ACTIVITY

Imagine you live in Persia at the time of Esther.  
Fill in the details about the events in the newspaper & Draw Queen Esther.

City of Susa

The  
**Persian Times**



KINGDOM OF PERSIA
A BIBLE HISTORY PUBLICATION

**Mordecai Angers the King's Counselor**

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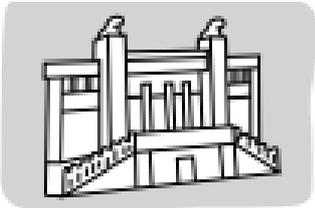
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**Party at Palace**



**King Xerxes Marries a New Wife!**

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This is an on-going story. Check back next week for more!