



THE VISION

ESTHER: GOD'S PROVIDENCE

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A. Author: Unknown

B. Title: Named after Esther, the Queen of Persia.

C. Theme: God engineers our lives for His glory.

D. Cast of Characters:

a. **AHASUERUS**

Third King of Persia (486-464 BC) also known as Xerxes

b. **VASHTI**

First Queen of Persia; strong-minded and independent

c. **HAMAN**

A wealthy, influential officer in Ahasuerus' court, hated the Jews.

d. **MORDECAI**

A godly Jew living in Persia; gatekeeper for the King and guardian of Esther

e. **ESTHER**

2nd Queen of Persia, whose name meant "star" and whose Hebrew name (Hadassah) meant "myrtle"

E. Plot of the Story:

a. Seven Day Party & an Honorable Queen

1. Ahasuerus' Pride

- 180 Days of wealth (1:4)
- Seven Day Feast (1:5)
- Orders for Vashti (1:10-12)

2. Vashti's Dismissal (1:19)

b. Esther's Beauty Contest

1. Esther's Upbringing (1:7)

2. God's Favor with Hegai (1:9)

- 12 months of makeup! (2:12)
- Ahasuerus loves Esther (2:17)

3. Mordecai Discovers a Plot (2:19ff.)

c. Haman's Conspiracy against the Jews

1. Run-in with Mordecai (3:2)

2. Haman's Decree (3:9)

d. Esther's Big Decision

1. Esther's Sorrow (4:4)

2. Mordecai's Appeal (4:14)

e. Esther's Banquets

1. Banquet 1: Wait (5:8)

2. Haman's Plot against Mordecai (5:9)

3. The King Honors Mordecai (6)

4. Banquet 2: Exposing Haman (7:4,10)

f. Esther Saves the Jews

1. Mordecai's Promotion (8:2)

2. Esther's Decree (8:7,11)

g. Victory for the Jews

1. Day of Victory (9:1)

2. Feast of Purim (9:21)

- Name means "lot" after Haman's casting of lots to determine the time to exterminate the Jews.
- Called "The Day of Mordecai" in 2 Maccabees
- Book of Esther was read to the People

F. Real Life Lessons from Esther:

1. God often works behind the scenes for the good of His people.
2. A difficult past doesn't disqualify us from service.
3. Those who oppose God will answer to Him.
4. The crucial moments of life are opportunities to rise to the occasion.
5. Sensitivity to the Spirit and patience are necessary parts of God's plan.
6. Just because God is not seen does not mean He is not at work.

HYMNS FOR TONIGHT'S WORSHIP



- # 44...Crown Him King of Kings
- # 54.....My Tribute
- # 55.....Bless His Holy Name
- # 56.....To God Be The Glory

Copies of "**The Journey**" outlines are still available in the Ministry Hallway. You can listen to the messages on our website: www.fbtc.org.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER menu APRIL 6

**Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Bread
Garden Salad, Lemon Cake**

**Cashier - Celyn Pendleton
Servers - Judi Sutton & Sherri Gilmore**

Serving time is 5:00 until 6:00pm. Children 5 & under - free, ages 6 to Adult are \$4.00 each with a family max of \$16.00. Please call the church office to make your reservations by **Monday, April 4.**

- **T-Shirts for China** - Our SE Asia Mission Team is selling t-shirts as a fundraiser. The shirts have all of the "10 in '11" mission trips listed on the back. Shirts are \$15 each and available in sizes Youth L through 3X (2X & 3X: \$1 more). **This Sunday, Apr 3, is your last chance to order your shirt!** Order forms will be available in the Ministry Hallway on Sunday.

- **D-NOW 2011 is THIS WEEKEND! - Featuring Dr. Alvin Reid and the Chad Lister Band - April 1 - 3** - Students grades 7-12

- **Race to the Resurrection** - (6th Graders Only) This fun event will meet Friday, **Apr 8**, 6-9pm in the Children's Building.

- **Homebound Easter Baskets** - Stop by the table outside the Music Office to pick up donation cards. Purchase the items and return to far end of the Ministry Hallway by Sunday, **Apr 10**. Our Bible Belles Bible Drill Team will deliver the baskets on Saturday, **Apr 16**.

- **Tool Roundup** - Our WV Mission Team is collecting various hand tools to take with them for construction. Please note that these items will not be returned. You can drop off tools in the box in the Ministry Hallway.

- **West Virginia Mission Team** - There is a meeting scheduled for TOMORROW NIGHT, Thurs, **Mar 31**, at 6:30pm in D-220. Please attend this important meeting regarding the mission trip.

Spring Celebration At The Property

Saturday, April 9 ☀ 11am-4pm

Bring a picnic lunch for your family, along with lawn chairs, blankets, and pop-up tents, as we spend the day with our FBTC family. There will be inflatables for the children to play on and the Recreation Committee will begin games of volleyball, soccer and football at 1pm. You are welcome to bring your own outdoor games to play as well.

In case of inclement weather, this event will be cancelled and not rescheduled.