

PERUSAL SCRIPT

Esther
Queen of Courage

by
Myrth Elizabeth Burr



Newport, Maine

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Esther: Queen of Courage

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FORMERLY TITLED: “Queen Esther: Queen of Courage”

Other Works and Presentations of the Author

- **Mary Fielding Smith, Mother of a Prophet, Her Trek West.** Mary Fielding Smith, a modern Biblical woman showed bravery and great faith in portraying the strength of women when and without hesitation she crossed the prairie with five little children. She said, "I must take the children to the tops of the mountains where they can worship the God of their choice in peace."
- **On Wings of Faith.** An oral presentation of President Benson's experience in Europe after World War 1.
- **The Story of Christmas.** The original Christmas nativity Pageant performed for the past twenty years on the Provo, Utah, Tabernacle lawn each December. Published by Encore, Orem, Utah.
- **Louisa Barns Pratt;** First Lady Missionary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- **Celebrations!** A Collection of experiences and stories of Mormon Pioneers as they left Nauvoo, crossed the prairie and entered the Salt Lake Valley. A book relating their celebration of the Fourth of July, Christmas and all the way in between. They were a happy people and loved a celebration.
- **Ruth and Naomi: Ancestral Line of Christ.** When Naomi asked Ruth to present herself in marriage to Boaz that she might raise up a family and keep their name alive in Israel, Ruth was shocked. Even though she gleaned in the fields of Boaz and saw him often, he had never once spoken of marriage. Ruth was teachable and loved Naomi. She respected her and knew of her great wisdom and said, "All thou sayest for me to do, I will do." Therefore by marriage to Boaz she kept their name alive in Israel and became the ancestral Grandmother of Jesus the Christ.

ESTHER Queen of Courage - A Story of Ancient Persia by Myrth Elizabeth Burr 1f. About 35-45 minutes. There is strength in story-telling; sharing tried and true stories that uplift. Ask yourself, "Do I have the courage of a Queen to stand firm for what I believe, EVEN IF I PERISH?" Esther was faced with the horrifying thought that her head would be chopped off with an ax if she went before the King without being called, but, she knew she must save her people from death. With the courage of a Queen she said, "I will go afore the King and if I perish, I will perish." The words of old Mordecai kept ringing in her ears. "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this." Esther knew that she must approach the King as always with confidence and grace. She stood, for a time, in the outer court of the King's house. She moved from column to column, slowly, dreading each step she must take. She eased into the inner court with all the courage she could muster. **ORDER #2090**

Myrth Elizabeth Liston Burr, was born March 9, 1921 to Hazel G. Riddle and Don Carlos Liston in Escalante, Utah. Myrth spent her early years living in Escalante, and Cedar City and moved to Orem, Utah to attend high school. Myrth graduated from Lincoln High School where she served as the Student Body Vice President in 1939. Myrth studied home economics at BYU before she married Dick Wayne Burr on November 17, 1941. Dick and Myrth raised four children: Jay, Eileen, Barbara and Robert. She has 22 grandchildren and great grandchildren. She passed from this world on February 14, 2015. Myrth was active in her family and community throughout her life. As a savvy business woman she helped make Burr Family Farms a successful endeavor, receiving special recognition as Outstanding Farmers of the year, and in the Cultural Arts community in Utah. She was well known for her dramatic presentations and firm belief that pioneers (and others) can come to life through the medium of storytelling/theatre. She served as President of the Utah Valley Theater Guild. She was a long time member of the Provo Arts Council. Myrth wrote and published several plays: Ruth & Naomi, Mary Fielding Smith: mother of a prophet, and Queen Esther, all of which she also performance to thousands of people in Utah, the United States and around the world. Myrth served as docent at the Museum of Church History and Art in Salt Lake City for many years. She was a Halloween enthusiast and had always had a rousing Halloween party for the entire family and neighborhood.

Prologue

(This can be printed in the program, or spoken (recorded) by someone other than the performer, just prior to the performer's entrance.)

VOICE: It is believed by scholars that the following events of Biblical history took place between 453 B.C. and 478 B.C.

The story of Esther opens in the opulent courts of Susa, called Shushan Persia.

Esther's beauty was such that it could catch and hold the eye of an Oriental Emperor accustomed to being surrounded by captivating women. Her loveliness combined with sincerity of spirit revealed that she had inward beauty as well.

The story of Esther is sacred to the Jews and compelling to all because of the dauntless defense of her convictions to her people.

After the death of Xerxes, it is recorded that the Kingdom was given to his son Cyrus. When Cyrus inherited his fathers kingdom, he also inherited his fathers honor and divine worship toward God and was exceedingly friendly to the Jews. The Greeks called him Ahasuerus. He reigned over all the territory from India to Ethiopia and sent governors to the one hundred twenty-seven provinces in his kingdom. When he obtained the government from the Persians, the whole nation of Jews including wives and children were in danger of perishing.

In the third year of his reign the mighty King made a great and costly feast in the opulent courts of Shushan. He invited his many friends from Persia; the Governors, Princes and Nobles along with their servants from all the provinces. This was the custom in Persia and was proper for the King to do. Tents were pitched and supported by pillars of gold and silver with curtains of linen in multi-colors of purple. The King vowed to have plenty of room for the many tens of thousands he anticipated would attend the affair and desired to make it grand and comfortable in every manner for his invited guests.

(LIGHTS come up on QUEEN ESTHER, or she enters from offstage.)

QUEEN ESTHER: Women held on to their skirts and men kept a firm grip on their turbans as the desert whirlwinds twisted and turned; stirring, scattering and blinding the throngs of weary travelers crowding into Shushan. Excitement was high as the multitude arrived. Many walked, some bounced in wood carts with grinding wheels, others rode on the backs of donkeys, camels or dromedaries.

It was mid-afternoon, the burning sun was sweltering and intense and caused the newcomers to become irritable and impatient.

"Watch out," shouted a servant. "That horse is flighty and the cart is heavy. Excited horses can be dangerous."

"There are too many people crowding and shoving," an old man said shaking his head in disgust.

"Well, King Ahasuerus has invited the many princes, nobles, and servants "from all the Provinces, what can one expect? This is a day for excitement. Not often are we invited to such an occasion," a young man called out as he moved briskly through the crowd.

"Quite a turmoil, isn't it?" came the squeaky voice of an elderly man. "See how the chickens, goats and geese scatter," he chuckled as a goose challenged him with a stretched neck hissing loudly.

"There are so many, the throngs shove and push," a crippled man complained.

"Come, let me help you," offered a young prince. "We are excited to be invited to such a grand occasion."

"We wives have been invited by Queen Vashti," a woman of distinction proudly announced. Other women close by smiled and nodded their heads.

"Yes, I quiver with delight just to think that we were so honored," said a younger woman.

"I have never before been so thrilled," stated another. They talked and whispered quietly among themselves all the while keeping a weary eye on the fiercely barking dogs in the distance.

"I hope those dogs don't break loose from their chains," they worried one with another. "They look mean and vicious and could easily take one of us down."

"Yes, maybe eat us," they all agreed and hurried on to find the Queens rooms.

Wooden wheels of the rudely made carts rumbled and shook the earth as thousands flocked into Shushan. Although it seemed everyone was coming at once. The brigade kept up for hours, even days.

All were assigned quarters and then given time to rest and refresh after the long dusty journey.

At last the multitude was settled. The brass horns sounded and all were summoned to the main tents where servants offered golden goblets of wine to the guests.

The King upon shouting his greetings to the gathering made sure his messages were carried by criers to those too far away to hear.

"Welcome, My friends and invited guests, be seated and make yourself comfortable. Soon the feasting will begin."

The following morning King Ahasuerus showed his guests his glorious Kingdom and the riches of his land. In the Palace he offered them royal wine served in vessels of gold adorned with precious stones. At all times wine was to be served continually but not forced on any man. Every man was to drink only for his pleasure. They had been invited to come and enjoy and drink as they wished. The palace was filled with merriment and the guests were invited to wander through the massive columns and along the mosaic walkways.

The King announced to the gathering. "People of my country you are all at this time freed from your labors and my desire is that you will enjoy the festival and the feast which will continue for many days."

Queen Vashti gathered her guests together. The women found the Queens quarters to be pleasant and enjoyed sitting and lounging among the grand columns where they took delight in looking at the strikingly beautiful life-size figurines and vases. They compared one with the other which extended on and on even into the gardens. Maidens of loveliness dressed in long flowing sheaths served bowls of

fresh figs, dates, nuts, and persimmons. It was a delight to the women when they were served the delicate and coveted citron plant delicious with taste and luxuriant with fragrance. Bowls overflowing with long stems of freshly picked black grapes were placed conveniently for all to enjoy. New wine was served in golden goblets adorned with precious stones. Music of the Harp was heard throughout the banquet rooms; the Lute could be heard in the distance. Ripples of laughter resounded among the invited guests. It was a joyous occasion.

The King loved Queen Vashti, who he felt exceeded all the other women in loveliness and design. She was slender, beautiful, gracious and kind. Her hair, the color of burning embers, framed her oval face of olive complexion. Her deep, brown eyes danced with happiness. He was proud to have her for his Queen and as the festival progressed he desired to show her to all that feasted with him.

On the seventh day, when the King was merry with wine, he commanded Mehmucan and his seven chamberlains to bring Queen Vashti before him that the princes and nobles and all the people might see her beauty. She was indeed fair to look upon.

Having taken this message to the Queen, the servants reluctantly returned from the Queen's rooms and desiring not to embarrass the King before his quests whispered to the King that she had refused to come, The Queen felt the King's request unwise and she considered it beneath the dignity of a Queen to parade before such a crowd simply to display her beauty.

Vashti had great respect for the laws of the Persians which forbade the wives to be seen by strangers. Even though the King sent again and again for her she did not appear. With the King in his unstable state of wine the Queen feared he might desire that she parade unrobed before his guests. Vashti was beautiful and modest in her apparel. She carried herself with dignity as the stately Queen of Persia. She would not lower her status even if it required disobeying the King's request.

Queen Vashti realized that women were expected to be subservient to their husbands and that the Emperor had absolute power over life and death. Still she was, in mind, a Queen, and was above doing what the King asked. She did not go.

The King was angry and his anger burned within him. He turned to his chamberlains for solace. "What shall we do unto the Queen?" he asked.

Memucan conniving and proud to be asked, replied, "The Queen hasn't done wrong before the King only, but to all the people in the Provinces. This deed of the Queen shall be borne by all women. They shall despise their husbands and disobey them. Such a thing as this cannot be."

Harbona, another chamberlain assured him, "Vashti is unquestionably admired by the women of the empire and this act will inspire a similar independence of spirit also in the other women."

Zethar, another chamberlain, gave comfort to the King. "Your Highness, such arrogance the Queen has shown toward one who rules over all, surely she must be punished."

"O mighty King. Let it be written, Queen Vashti shall no more be asked to come by her to the King. Therefore the King shall give her royal estate to another who is more obedient than she, for it is good

that all wives shall give to their husbands honor, both great and small."

This pleased the King and he said, "Let it be written, Let it be done."

The King did according to the word of Memucan. Letters were sent to all the provinces stating that every man should bear rule in his own house.

After the great flurry of harm was done and every Province had received letters stating this decree, the King was appeased and remorseful remembering what he had let happen and what was decreed against the Queen.

"I regret this hasty decision." he mourned "What have I done in my drunken stupor? I care deeply for her. Vashti was my Queen, now she has been banished from me, from my sight, from my Kingdom, and this dreadful decree cannot be broken or altered. Such an edict issued by the King, entered among the laws of the Persians and the Medes is sealed with the royal signet and does not pass away or is it irrevocable."

To appease his grieving, the King's servants advised him, "Cast out the love of your wife and her memory."

"Yes," said another, "Let there be fair young virgins sought for the King. Gather all of them unto Shushan and let the fair young maiden which pleaseth the King, be Queen, instead of Vashti." This pleased the sorrowed King and again he said, "Let it be written, Let it be done."

Now there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, a Benjaminite. His great great grandfather had been carried away in captivity when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem. He was a devout Hebrew and had great faith in his God Jehovah; he was courageous, forthright, and practical.

A daughter was born to his father's brother and was given the Persian name, 'Esther' which means 'Star'. She had neither mother or father, therefore, Mordecai raised her as his own daughter. She had fine features, long black hair and deep searching eyes, she was pleasant, wholesome and comely.

I, Mordecai was a man of distinction and a principal person among the Jews, but because he was considered of low lineage among the Persians he was most happy to work, even as a guard at the gate in the King's household to earn enough for their living.

Mordecai read the King's decree stating all young virgins were sought to become the new Queen. Esther was gentle and kind; had quick awareness and was most lovely to look upon. Mordecai recognized her genteel virtues and alert mind as royal qualities desired for a queen and was desirous that he might send her to the palace of the King.

Mordecai was a Jew, as was Esther, a race so despised that he feared for Esther. If she went into the King's house, her Jewish blood might be discovered, she might even be put to death. He nevertheless contained his fears and sent her to the palace but warned her not to reveal the origins of her people.

Hope burned within him that she might find favor with the King. His heart took joy in the vision that upon the shoulders of this single girl, a family, a tribe, the whole subjected nation might find favor and that Jewish blood might course through the veins of a new King.

So it came to pass that 400 hundred maidens gathered together in the Palace of Shushan. Esther entered with grace and awareness. Her countenance drew the eyes of the spectators when it was her turn to be brought before King. The winsome young Esther pleased the King and she found favor with him.

He gave command to his chamberlains immediately ordering them to present to her certain oils for purification. Such was the custom that she was to have six months with oil of myrrh, six months with sweet odors, a diet of grains, dates and other fruits of the season but not of any living creature.

Esther was young and longed for Mordecai. If only she could get a glimpse of the kind old man or see his smile or hold his hand. She remembered his teachings, she was gracious and polite and never once did she mention to anyone of her Jewish decent.

Young maidens of all the Provinces, even those of humble and lowly circumstance were sent to the Palace, therefore a period of extended purification was declared to prepare the maidens for presentation to the King. Also, time was spent in educating and training the young maidens in the ways of the King's court.

Every maiden when it was decided she was sufficiently purified was taken to the King.

As each virgin was called and presented to the King, they were allowed to dress in whatever adornment of perfume and elegant attire they so desired. Some chose to wear their hair plaited or whirled about their head; others chose to let their hair hang loosely about the face; all wore long flowing tunics draped with mantels of brilliant colors and each selected sandals of fine quality.

Esther went before the King dressed modestly and unadorned, wearing only the enchantment of her character and youthful beauty. Her eyes, brilliant and black, sparkled as she looked into his eyes, her hair, the color of ebony, hung to her waist like strands of fine silk.

The maidens, one each day, was sent in to be with the King.

The King was drawn immediately to Esther's loveliness, he was pleased with her and chose Esther above all the virgins. She obtained grace and favor in his sight for he felt she possessed the qualities of a good Queen. It was then he placed a diadem adorned with precious gems upon her head.

At once great preparations were made for their marriage. There was feasting and banquets and music and all manner of celebrations for the elaborate marriage.

Never once did she mention to the King what nation she derived from nor, of her people.

Again the King gave an elaborate feast for her in the twelfth month of the seventh year of his reign which was called Adar. She was his Queen and he gave her honor.

The King gave her rooms in the palace and servants to wait upon her. Throughout all the kingdom people knew that Vashti had been banished and Esther now had been chosen the new Queen and the King had made her his lawful wife.

Mordecai saw very little of Esther after that. Every day he walked by her window hoping for a glimpse of the young Queen and inquired how the damsel was, then, as always he returned to guard the King's

gate.

As Mordecai watched over the King's Gate, he overheard the conversation between Bigtharn and Teresh, the King's bodyguards, who were for some reason angry at the King and conspired against him and plotted to lay hands on the King and kill him. Mordecai became frightened for the King and sent word at once to Esther. She immediately informed Ahasuerus saying, "Mordecai has discovered two men are planning to take your life."

The King inquired among his most trusted chamberlains and found the report to be true. Bigtham and Teresh were sought out and hanged on a tree. Thus it was written in the 'Book of Chronicles.'

Among the princes at the Palace in Shushan was the proud and haughty Haman. He was rich and clever and knew how to please and manipulate the King. Ahasuerus trusted him and gave Haman high position, he was in charge of all the Princes of the Kingdom.

It was the law that all the King's servants, within the King's gate, should bow before the King's honored friend the Mighty Haman, Mordecai believed in divine worship and remained loyal to the laws of his own country and his own God, therefore he would not worship Haman and refused to bow before him or give him reverence.

Haman, angered by this, inquired of the reason, and was told that Mordecai was a Jew. Haman enraged at such disrespectful behavior shown to him by Mordecai, meditated long and hard on the matter. Finally, his scheme was not only to abolish this Jew but the whole Jewish nation.

Haman sought an immediate audience with the King, "There is a certain wicked nation among us, unsociable and disobedient of the laws both in manner and practice. O King, give an order to destroy the Jews and leave not the least of them alive, slave or captive. Let it be written there will be cause to kill all Jews, to destroy and to perish both young and old, as well as little children and women, then take the spoil of them for prey. O Mighty King, let it be done on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month. I have riches and wealth a plenty and will pay the soldiers who will do it ten thousand talents of silver which they will bring into the King's treasuries."

The King, trusting Haman said, "Do with them whatsoever seemeth good to thee. It is now written and sealed with the King's ring." The King took his ring from his hand and gave it to Haman.

King Ahasuerus knew very little about the Jews or their religion, nor did he know his wife was Jewish. Ahasuerus trusted his friend Haman and did not suspect him of wicked judgement.

Haman, having achieved what he wanted, immediately sent out a decree to all the provinces ordering the destruction of the Jews. He was pleased finally, to be even with Mordecai for Mordecai still would not show reverence to 'him' the mighty Haman. Haman comforted himself and said, "Now, knowing Mordecai the Jew will be killed, I will at last rest and sleep at night"

All the people of the Provinces were in disorder. They were confused and anguished when learning of the King's letters which spoke of the abolishment of all Jews. The Jews had always lived peacefully and had never caused trouble. Why was the King displeased with them? Why had the King passed such an ed cot?

The law now passed, Haman and the King, unconcerned, spent the morning in feasting with good cheer and wine.

When Mordecai read the decree, he was stunned, shocked He rent his clothes, donned sackcloth and ashes and went about the city crying out, "A nation that has been injurious to no man is to be destroyed." He continued mourning loudly in the streets, "For what reason has this law been given? There must be a mistake"

Others of the Jewish Nation also sat in sackcloth and ashes and mourned... and fasted... and prayed

Mordecai, in woeful agony and great anguish suffered sleepless nights. As he lay awake grieved and tormented, questions raced through his mind. How did this happen? What could be the cause for such an affliction on our people? Who would do such a thing as this? Suddenly he was jarred into realization, Haman was responsible!

Timor griped his heart. If the law was carried out, even Esther would be killed.

Esther, unaware of what had happened, watched each day for Mordecai to pass by her window, one morning he did not come. She knew something was wrong and sent a chamberlain to inquire.

Esther, informed of Mordecai's deep sorrow, hurriedly sent another more trusted servant to enquire further as to his public mourning. The servant returned, "Mordecai and all the Jews are in mourning and clothed in sackcloth and ashes because Mordecai has declared he is a Jew and will not bow before Haman, therefore a law has been passed that all Jew+s are to be killed and left for prey. Mordecai sends a copy of the decree to you to tell you what has happened and to ask you to go to the King to plead for the safety of your people, for it is written that all Jews will be destroyed."

Stunned, Esther was overcome by the news, and fearful. She was aware of the King's law and sent word that, all the King's servants and all the people of the Provinces know that whosoever whether man or woman who dare go into the inner court, if they are not called, shall be put to death except the King shall hold out the golden scepter that he may live. I have not been called to come to the King in these thirty days. It may be that I have lost favor with the King.

Esther knew that going into the King's presence without permission was a capital offense. "My life could truly be in jeopardy. All the kingdom knows while the King sits upon his throne men with axes stand ready to punish or cut off the head of such a person who would approach him without being called."

Panic gripped Esther's heart as she thought of what she must do. If only the King would hold out his golden scepter to her she would be saved, but how could she know in what manner she would be received.

Fearful and concerned, Mordecai sent word again to Esther.

'Remember, that you are a Jew and you will not escape death even though you are in the King's house. You could be killed also. If you hold your peace, and not speak, your father's house will be destroyed, who knoweth whether thou art come to the Kingdom for such a time as this?'

Esther ordered her eunuch to return to Mordecai and tell him, "Gather all the Jews that are present in

Shushan and fast ye for me, neither eat nor drink three days, night and day, I and my maidens will fast likewise, and then I will go into the King, which is not according to the law, and if I perish, I perish.”

Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

She considered her death a real possibility and made supplication to God after the manner of her country by casting herself upon the earth, putting on her mourning garments and bidding farewell to meat, drink, and all delicacies for three days time. While she fasted she prayed to her God asking him to have mercy on her and her people; She pleaded that her words would be persuasive to the King and her countenance more beautiful than ever before; She prayed that the King's heart would be softened so that he might hold out his golden scepter to her.

On the third day, she adorned herself in the elegance of royal apparel and entered the Palace garden, numbed with fright, slowly, carefully, she inched her way closer to the King's court. She bade two of her handmaidens to accompany her. One which supported her, for Esther was weak, her young body was quaking with dread and she needed help; someone to lean upon. The other handmaiden followed after her lifting and holding up the long flowing train of her Royal Robe.

The elegance of the robe was delicately interwoven with gold thread and precious stones and fell in lustrous folds over her body and brushed with softness along the ground, It was graceful and enhanced her body, even to covering the extremities of her fingers. She was Queenly beautiful.

Esther knew that she must approach the King as always with confidence and grace. She Mot Ar a time, in the outer court of the King's house and moved from column to column, slowly, dreading each step she must take. Finally she eased into the inner court with all the courage she could muster. She was going before the King to plead for her life and the lives of her people. Pausing behind a column she uttered a prayer; “My heart is beating so wildly I fear it will burst, help me to trust and not be afraid.”

With quaking steps she ascended the steps to the Throne and not until then was she conscious of men standing with sharpened axes. Her limbs failed her completely and she fell into a swoon.

The King sitting on his throne saw Esther fall. He leapt from his throne and rushed to her and while holding her in his arms told her to be of good cheer, saying, 'The law was made for the subjects, but, you Esther, are my Queen.' He then held out his golden scepter and laid the rod on her shoulder. As he led her back to the throne he invited her to reach and touch the top of the scepter. The King then inquired, 'What wilt thou, Queen Esther? and what is thy request? It shall be given unto thee even to one half of the Kingdom.’”

Esther, smiled, gaining her composure she gave reverence to the King for his goodness and requested the King to dine with her that night, "My King, I am preparing a supper for you, I invite you to come and be my guest. It will be my pleasure to have you attend and because I know Haman is your trusted friend he also will be welcome.”

Haman was overjoyed with the invitation. With puffed up pride thoughts raced through his mind. What would others think when they heard of him having the honor of supping with the King at the Queen's banquet? He rushed home and called his wife Zeresh and his trusted friends boastfully telling them of

this great honor. Haman told them of the glory of his riches and the multitude of his children and all the things wherein the King had promoted him and how he had been advanced above all the other princes and servants of the kingdom.

Still he dwelt upon and remembered with torment his displeasure with Mordecai, the Jew, 'who still would not bow nor pay him reverence.'"

Zeresh advised, "My husband, the mighty Haman, give orders that gallows shall be made fifty cubits high, and in the morning ask it of the King that Mordecai be hanged upon it for the indecency that he has shown toward you."

That night the King couldn't sleep and since he didn't believe in wasting time lying in his bed awake, he called his servant and commanded the scribe to bring him the chronicles and read to him the records of his people and his actions. The scribe came to the report of Bigtham and Teresh who conspired against the King. Then the account of Mordecai was read of how he overheard the plot of Bigtham and Teresh and made known how they plotted to kill the King. It was recorded that Mordecai had reported this thing and the life of the King was saved.

At this time the King interrupted the scribe and inquired, "Does it say that Mordecai had a reward given to him?" And when the record was read there was no such reward the King told the scribe to leave. The King needed to be alone to think about and consider the report of the records.

Having been consumed with the records all night, the King found it to be daylight, he arose asking if any of his friends had come to the court that day to join him and was told that Haman was there. Indeed Haman had arrived early to petition the King to have Mordecai put to death.

The King invited Haman to join him at his morning meal for he needed one with whom he could counsel. "Because I know that you are my only fast friend, I want you to give me advice; how may I honor one that I greatly love, and that after a manner suitable to my magnificence?"

Haman thinking it was himself who the King referred to said, "If thou would truly honor a man whom you say you do love, give an order that this person may ride on horseback wearing the royal garment with a gold chain about his neck. Let an intimate friend go before him proclaiming throughout the city, that whosoever the King honors may receive the 'mark' of the King's honor."

Pleased, the King then gave such an order to Haman, "Go you therefore for you have the horse the chain and the garment. Ask for Mordecai the Jew and give him all those things, the ride before his horse and shout to all who can hear, 'Mordecai has saved the King from death and this is the reward the King will give to the one who has preserved his life.'"

Haman was shocked, surely he had not heard right. Surely the King had erred. Haman had not expected this. Surely the King did jest. Blindly he gazed at the King as the King continued, "Let it be written, Let it be done."

I, Haman, hesitated to be sure he had heard his ruler command such a thing. Reluctantly he moved into the streets and finding Mordecai tried to tell him of the King's word. Haman's lips moved but there was no sound. He tried again not finding words, finally he squeaked out the message bidding Mordecai to

remove his sackcloth and ashes. Haman, with difficulty, finally asked Mordecai to put on the King's purple robe which he decorated with gold chains then told him to mount the horse. After this was done, Mordecai also in shock was greatly astonished for "he did not understand what was meant by these most unusual orders given by Haman. Without further word Haman went about the city before Mordecai as the King had proclaimed calling out: "This shall be the reward the King will bestow on anyone who he loves and esteems worthy of his honor."

After they had gone about the city declaring this proclamation. Mordecai was led into the King's court and was received by the King with great ceremony.

SEVEN more pages to the end of the script.

Letters

"When the spirit touched you with the desire to further serve beyond what had been asked, you responded in a most beautiful way—through researching, writing and dramatizing the lives of righteousness from the past. The thought came to my mind, when you meet these people on the other side they will embrace you and call you blessed." –Elaine

"Thank you for coming to Palm Springs and sharing your talents, with us. We felt the spirit as we learned about the values of Biblical women. Your presentation was positive and rewarding. I felt like I was there living the lives and experiences with people from the past. Many lives have been enriched." –Karen

"I just wanted to tell you how deeply your stories of the Bible affected me. It is most obvious you have received inspiration from you Father in Heaven." –Joyce

"Thank you for sharing with us your insight of women from the Bible. We heard your presentation at the Church Office Building in Salt Lake City, and was honored to have you speak at our Women's Conference." –Highland, Utah

"What a wonderful weekend. You brought a great rekindling of the spirit to us as you personalized the lives of those we admire from the Bible. It gives us strength to put our own trials in perspective". –Oklahoma