

Review Questions – Esther

*** As your family reads the Book of Esther, you may notice that some Bible versions refer to the Persian king as "**Xerxes**", while others use the name "**Ahasuerus**."

Please know that **both names refer to the same person**—the king who ruled during Esther's time.

- "**Ahasuerus**" is the name used in the **original Hebrew Bible**.
- "**Xerxes**" is the name used in **many modern translations**, based on the historical king **Xerxes I** of Persia.

Different Bible versions choose one name or the other to help readers better understand the text. Whichever name is used, the story and message remain the same.

For the quiz, questions concerning the king will have both names listed.

Chapter 1 – Queen Vashti Disobeys

1. Who was the king of Persia at the beginning of the book of Esther?
King Xerxes (Ahasuerus)
2. Why was Queen Vashti removed from being queen?
She refused to appear before the king and his guests when summoned.

Chapter 2 – Esther Becomes Queen

3. Who raised Esther after her parents died?
Her cousin Mordecai
4. Why was Esther brought to the palace?
To take part in the search for a new queen for King Xerxes (Ahasuerus)
5. What did Esther keep secret while in the palace?
Her Jewish background
6. Who chose Esther to be queen?
King Xerxes (Ahasuerus)

Chapter 3 – Haman's Plot Against the Jews

7. Why did Haman become angry with Mordecai?
Because Mordecai would not bow down to him
8. What did Haman convince the king to do?
To issue a decree to destroy all the Jews in the kingdom

Chapter 4 – Esther's Brave Decision

9. What did Mordecai ask Esther to do when he heard about the decree?
To go to the king and plead for her people
10. What was Esther afraid of when Mordecai asked her to go to the king?
She could be killed for going to the king without being summoned
11. What famous words did Mordecai say to encourage Esther?
"Who knows? It's possible that you became queen for just a time like this."

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Chapter 5 – Esther Approaches the King

12. What did Esther do after fasting for three days?
She went to the king, risking her life
13. What did Esther invite the king and Haman to?
A banquet (and later a second banquet)

Chapter 6 – Mordecai Is Honored

14. What did the king discover when he couldn't sleep?
That Mordecai had once saved his life but was never rewarded
15. What did Haman have to do for Mordecai?
Lead him through the city on the king's horse, honoring him

Chapter 7 – Haman is Punished

16. What did Esther reveal at the second banquet?
That she was Jewish and that Haman planned to destroy her people
17. What happened to Haman?
He was hanged on the pole he had prepared for Mordecai

Chapter 8 – The King's New Order

18. What did the king allow Mordecai and Esther to do after Haman's death?
Write a new order to save the Jews
19. What did the new order say?
The Jews could defend themselves against anyone who tried to harm them

Chapter 9 – The Jews Are Saved

20. What did the Jews do on the day their enemies planned to destroy them?
They fought back and defeated their enemies
21. What festival was started to celebrate their victory?
Purim

Chapter 10 – Mordecai Is Honored

22. What position was Mordecai given at the end of the book?
Second in command to King Xerxes (Ahasuerus)
23. How was Mordecai remembered by the Jewish people?
As someone who worked for their good and spoke up for their well-being