

# Mordecai Overcomes Adversity (Part 1 of 2)

## *Responding to Adversity*

Dr. Goodluck Ofoegbu

Prof. Oby Ofoegbu

Banking Blessings Ministry

San Antonio, Texas

USA

# What We Will Learn

- Mordecai overcame adversity
- Remained committed to worshiping and serving God despite his adversity
- Triumphed over conspiracy against Jews
- Overcame enemies
- Overcame poverty
- Esther 3–9

# How Mordecai Overcame Adversity

- Three actions by Mordecai
- Setup foundation for overcoming adversity
  - Raised uncle's orphan daughter as his
  - Reported assassination plot against king
  - Refused to worship Haman, agent of the king, even under threat of execution
- Discussed in "*Mordecai Living in Adversity*"

# Conspiracy Against Jews

- Haman perceived opportunity to destroy all Jews throughout the kingdom of Xerxes
- Sought and received authority from the king to do whatever he wanted against the Jews
- Issued a decree in the name of the king to destroy all Jews in the kingdom
- Esther 3:5–6, 8–11, 13–15

## **Esther 3 (NIV)**

5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged.

6 Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

## Esther 3 (NIV)

8 Then Haman said to King Xerxes, “There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king’s laws; it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them.

## Esther 3 (NIV)

9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king's administrators for the royal treasury.”

10 So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

11 “Keep the money,” the king said to Haman, “and do with the people as you please.”

## Esther 3 (NIV)

13 Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.



## Esther 3 (NIV)

14 A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so they would be ready for that day.

15 The couriers went out, spurred on by the king's command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was bewildered.

# Mordecai and Other Jews Protest

- Mordecai mourned and protested
  - Tore his clothes. Put on sackcloth and ashes
  - Cried aloud everywhere
  - Took protest to the king's gate
- Jews in other provinces mourned, cried aloud, and fasted
- Mordecai asked Esther to appeal to the king
- Esther 4:1–8

## Esther 4 (NIV)

1 When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.

2 But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it.

## Esther 4 (NIV)

3 In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

4 When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them.

## **Esther 4 (NIV)**

5 Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

6 So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate.

## Esther 4 (NIV)

7 Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews.

## Esther 4 (NIV)

8 He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

# Mordecai Rebukes Esther

- Mordecai rebuked Esther for reluctance
- Declared relief and deliverance for Jews
- Even if Esther does not get involved
- Admonished Esther that the crisis may be the reason God placed her in the royal family
- Esther asked for three days of prayer and fasting among all Jews in the royal city
- Esther 4:12–17



## **Esther 4 (NIV)**

12 When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai,

13 he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape.

14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

## Esther 4 (NIV)

15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

16 “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

17 So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther’s instructions.

# What We Learned

- Mordecai refusal to worship Haman
  - Ignited conspiracy against Jews
  - Mordecai's protest
  - Mordecai's admonition of Esther
  - Esther's resolve to appeal to the king
  - Ultimately, Mordecai triumph over adversity
- Mordecai's adversity increased initially and decreased rapidly, because of his resolve to worship God with all his heart

# What We Learned cont'd

- Mordecai held Esther accountable
- Believed Esther should get involved
- Rebuked her for attempting to decline
- Hold your “child” accountable
- Based on your understanding of what the child should do to worship and serve God in the specific situation