

STRONG WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Esther: Strong In Courage

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B. Serve Faithfully: Beauty & Grace

⁹ *"Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favor; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women."* Esther 2:9

¹⁷ *"The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti."* Esther 2:17

C. Plan Wisely

³ *"Then Queen Esther answered and said, 'If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request."*

⁴ *"For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss."* Esther 7:3-4

D. Celebrate Joyfully

²⁶ *"So they called these days Purim, after the name Pur. Therefore, because of all the words of this letter, what they had seen concerning this matter, and what had happened to them,*

²⁷ *the Jews established and imposed it upon themselves and their descendants and all who would join them, that without fail they should celebrate these two days every year, according to the written instructions and according to the prescribed time,*

²⁸ *that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city, that these days of Purim should not fail to be observed among the Jews, and that the memory of them should not perish among their descendants."*

Esther 9:26-28

ESTHER: BE STRONG IN COURAGE

Introduction:

- A. Did you know the Bible is full of stories of awesome, strong women? These are strong women who discovered supernatural strength found only in God.

These women were like the women described in Proverbs 31,

"Strength and honor are her clothing" (Proverbs 31:25a).

- B. In the Strong Women Of The Bible Teaching Series we will unveil the story of six strong women. And how these formidable women wielded this power to overcome difficulties and transform lives.

Get ready to EMPOWER your life by applying principles and lessons from STRONG WOMAN OF THE BIBLE.

May 10	Mary: Strong In Obedience
May 17	Jochebed and Amran: Strong In Parenting
May 24	Rahab: Strong In Faith
May 31	Deborah: Strong In Leadership
June 7	Ruth: Strong In Love
TODAY	Esther: Strong In Courage

TEXT: Esther 4:13-17

Esther courageously faced the difficulty of preventing the genocide of the Jewish people.

¹⁶ *"Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"* Esther 4:16

HOW TO BE STRONG IN COURAGE

I. KNOW BIBLICAL FACTS

There are two important points to know:

A. God's providence is working through all the Bible towards fulfilling His redemptive plan and promises.

¹⁰ *"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,'"* Isaiah 46:10

The book of Esther "offers a profound glimpse into the providence of God and the courage of a young Jewish woman who rises to a position of influence in a foreign empire." (Bible Hub)

B. Throughout history Satan never stops his attempt to derail the Messianic lineage.

¹⁶ *"Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so, I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"* Esther 4:16

II. UNDERSTAND THE CHARACTERS OF THE STORY

There are four primary characters.

A. King Ahasuerus

¹ *"Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus (this was the Ahasuerus who reigned over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, from India to Ethiopia),*

² *in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the citadel,*

³ *that in the third year of his reign he made a feast for all his officials and servants—the powers of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the princes of the provinces being before him—*

⁴ *when he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the splendor of his excellent majesty for many days, one hundred and eighty days in all."* Esther 1:1-4

B. Mordecai

⁶ *"Kish had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been captured with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.*

⁷ *And Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter."* Esther 2:6-7

C. Haman

¹ *"After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him."*

Esther 3:1

D. Esther

⁷ *"And Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter."* Esther 2:7

III. ACT COURAGEOUSLY

A. Obey totally.

¹⁰ *"Esther had not revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal it."*

Esther 2:10