



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1593 ~ An Orphan Girl.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

In today's Bible Adventure, we start the story of an orphaned Jewish girl called Esther. She was left in the care of a close relative, her cousin Mordecai when her parents died. Esther and Mordecai lived in the Persian capital city of Shushan, where the king of Persia stayed in his lavishly decorated winter palace. Shushan, also shown as Susa on maps, was almost level with Babylon but closer to the Arabian Gulf.

The Persians conquered Babylon in 539 BC. The events of the book of Esther belong between chapters 6 and 7 of the book of Ezra and cover about 10 years of the reign of King Xerxes I, starting in his third year as king. Although Xerxes was considered a great king, frank historical accounts say he did some seemingly strange things. The king held a six-month long banquet to which he invited all the chief army officers, the 127 province governors and his nobles. Food and wine flowed liberally but no one was forced to drink more than they desired.

Other historical records claim that those six months were used to plan an attack on Greece. When the banquet feast was finished, King Xerxes gave a seven-day feast for all the people of Shushan. Queen Vashti also gave a feast for the women. On the seventh day of the king's feast, Xerxes, not unsurprisingly, was drunk. He wanted to parade his beautiful queen around for all the princes and the people to look at her.

He sent messengers to get her but she refused to come. The king was not following the normal Persian code of conduct. The seclusion of the harem was to be violated for the amusement of the intoxicated king and his princes. So the queen said no.

Naturally Xerxes lost his temper and sought ways to punish her. He asked his princes what should be done. One said that Vashti was a bad example to all the other wives in the country, who then might disrespect their husbands as well. So Vashti should be divorced and the king should find a new queen from the young women of his empire. Although Vashti lost her crown, she held onto her modesty and integrity.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

Of the 66 books in the Bible, only two are named after women: Ruth, a Gentile or non-Jew who married a Jew and became the great grandmother of King David; and Esther, a Jewish woman who married a Gentile king who was ruling more than half of the then-known world. Both women had faith and courage and helped save the nation of Israel.

In the Bible book of Proverbs, Chapter 31, it says: “Kings should not drink wine or have a craving for alcohol. When they drink, they forget the laws and ignore the rights of the people in need.” If only Xerxes had followed that advice, his queen Vashti would not have been insulted or slandered.

Alcohol is not the only addictive substance these days that’s easily obtained and used to forget the realities of life. Some of the so-called recreational drugs make users withdraw into themselves so that they forget to eat or wash or put on clean clothes. They become totally unable to talk sensibly or do any work to be self-supporting.

Animals can also become addicted to alcoholic drinks. A man owned a champion horse that was very sick and he thought it was going to die. He gave it some bubbly alcoholic drink which helped the gas release from its stomach. It lived but it was hooked. He had to wean it off that drink very quickly as he couldn't afford to pay for all it could swallow.

A Christian man worked as a city lawyer. When he arrived home each evening, he drank two glasses of wine to relax and unwind from the stresses of the day. One day when he was sitting in church, the Lord convicted him to give up the wine. He agreed. And then the struggle began. The man said that he would have laughed at anyone who said he was addicted to alcohol and denied that it had any hold over him. But it took him six months before he had won the fight over his cravings.

Like King Xerxes, any person under the influence of addictive substances can make wrong decisions and lose their self control. That was the end stories of Noah and Lot. They committed grievous sins which harmed others. One man said: "I can make enough silly mistakes when I'm stone-cold sober! How much worse would I be if I'd been drinking?"

Many beautiful young women including Esther were gathered from the provinces and given into the care of an official looking after the king's women.

The official liked Esther immediately and gave her favoured treatment. All those young women were given servants and required to go through a year's worth of preparation before being presented to the king. What chance did Esther have of being made queen?

God knows the future and it was in God's plan for Esther to be favoured by the king and to be pronounced his new queen.

Between Chapters 1 and 2 of the book of Esther, King Xerxes made his historic attack with a large army on Greece. However, the Greeks defeated Xerxes in a battle in 480 BC.

Historians say that this was one of the world's most important battles.

Two years later Xerxes married Esther and she was his queen for 13 years. In the book of Esther, Xerxes is often referred to as 'Ahasuerus' which is a title like Pharaoh.

Esther's marriage to Xerxes gave the Jews prestige in his court. No doubt Esther lived on for many years into the reign of her step-son Artaxerxes. Under this king, Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem.

In the book of Esther, the name of God is nowhere mentioned directly in the Hebrew text. But His hand is seen throughout the account. How was it possible for an orphan girl to rise to become the most important woman in the land? God is sovereign in the nations of the world and His people must surrender and do His will. At this time in our Bible Adventure, the Jews were struggling in Jerusalem and Judah, and needed the encouragement of this book to remind them that God keeps His covenant promises.

What can we learn from the early life of Esther? Esther herself was beautiful and modest, obedient and humble. In time, she showed her loyalty to her Jewish people and her courage to do what was right. How would our lives as Christ's disciples measure up if they were put in the spotlight? Let's pray persistently for victory over those things that hold back our witness for Christ.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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