

A Faithful Father in a Faithless World

Esther 1 & 2





Xerxes the Great (485-465 BC) "Toxic Masculinity"

- 1. Xerxes's life was consumed with himself. He is an example of how "toxic masculinity" functioning in a faithless world is a destroying agent of the devil.
- A. "Toxic" masculinity When traits traditionally associated with manhood– such as strength, leadership, or assertiveness, are distorted and exaggerated in ways that harm others. Result broken relationships, emotional bondages, and the rejection of God's design for manhood.
- B. Only hope for "Jerxes" and his people revival of the human heart.

- 2. Mordecai filled the "empty place" in the heart and life of his young cousin, Esther, becoming her "father-figure."
- A. V 2:7. Example of Godly manhood.
 - Initiative, protector, provider, guide.
 - 1 Tim 5:8
 - Spiritual father. Judaism.
- B. His love was active; involved in Esther's life.
 - V2:10-11
 - V2:21-22
- C. Rose above unfairness of life. V 2:9, 2:15
- D. Believed God for something bigger. Jer 29:10-14



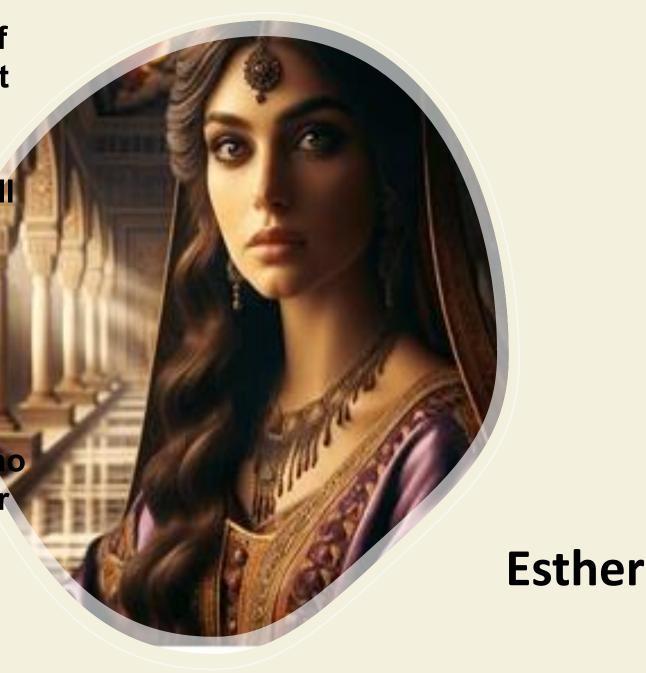
Mordecai (Esther's "adoptive father")

 The NT is specific about the importance of family relationships as a lifelong commitment.

- A. 1 Tim. 5:3-4 Honor widows who are *widows indeed*. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them *first learn* to *show godliness* to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is *pleasing in the sight of God*. (ESV) v8.
- B. 1 Tim. 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for *members of his household*, he has *denied the faith* and is worse than an unbeliever.

- 3. God is not limited or bound by the acts of humanity or unexpected occurrences in our life. He simply redeems the unexpected and indwells as his instrument.
- A. 2:5. At that time, there was a Jewish man ... of the tribe of Benjamin.... His family had been among those who, with King Jehoiachin ..., had been exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon...
 - Persians defeat Babylonians 539BC
 - Jewish remnant returns to Jerusalem. 538BC
 - Present day in Ester 1: 482BC
 - Mordecai remained among the "diaspora"
- B. "For such a time as this V4:14

Est. 4:14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the **Jews from** another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (ESV)



Call to Action.

- A. What would revival look like in your "family"? Memorize Esther 4:14.
- B. Are there any people in your "world" who have an "empty place" in their hearts and minds? How could you help them fill it?
- C. Pray for our youth at Skycroft this week. "Adopt" one by praying specifically for them this week. May our God raise up a Mordecai/Esther to bring about revival in the family.

