

# ESTHER

CHARACTERS: Narrator, Mordecai, Esther, King (non-speaking)

PROPS: Crown and scepter for KING

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Esther 3 and 4

At rise: Esther and Mordecai stand center stage.

NARRATOR: At the urging of the wicked Haman, King Xerxes signed a death warrant for all the Jews in Persia.

MORDECAI: Dispatches have been sent to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month.

ESTHER: How horrible.

MORDECAI: Go into the king's presence and beg for mercy. Plead with him for your people.

ESTHER: (*Fearful*) Everyone knows that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death.

MORDECAI: Unless...

ESTHER: (*ESTHER turns away from MORDECAI*) Unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. (*ESTHER turns back to MORDECAI, trying to convince him she cannot do this*) But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.

MORDECAI: Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. (*MORDECAI clutches her hands*) 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. (*ESTHER rests her head on their clasped hands*) And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?

ESTHER: (*Raising her head, tears in her eyes*) 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.

(*resolved*) And if I perish, I perish. (*MORDECAI exits. KING enters and as NARRATOR speaks, ESTHER goes to him, kneels, KING extends scepter, she rises and speaks*)

NARR: Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions. Esther risked her life and approached the king. He listened to her and the Jews were saved from destruction.