



# Unit 5

## Esther—Courage & God’s Providence

### BACKGROUND ON THE LITERATURE READING

- Fill out the following information while watching the *Video Lecture*.

AUTHOR:

TITLE:

IMPORTANT DATES:

GENRE:

OTHER NOTES:

### LITERATURE READING

- Read the passage multiple times.
- Annotate the passage, identifying key vocabulary and ideas.
- Make notes in the margin of any thoughts that strike you while reading.

*Esther 4:1–17 (RSV-CE)*

<sup>1</sup> When Mor'decai learned all that had been done, Mor'decai rent his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; <sup>2</sup> he went up to the entrance of the king’s gate, for no one might enter the king’s gate clothed with sackcloth. <sup>3</sup> And in every province, wherever the king’s

command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

<sup>4</sup> When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mor'decai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. <sup>5</sup> Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mor'decai to learn what this was and why it was. <sup>6</sup> Hathach went out to Mor'decai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, <sup>7</sup> and Mor'decai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. <sup>8</sup> Mor'decai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people, "Remembering the days of your lowliness, when you were cared for by me, because Haman, who is next to the king, spoke against us for our destruction. Beseech the Lord and speak to the king concerning us and deliver us from death." <sup>9</sup> And Hathach went and told Esther what Mor'decai had said. <sup>10</sup> Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mor'decai, saying, <sup>11</sup> "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law; all alike are to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter that he may live. And I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days." <sup>12</sup> And they told Mor'decai what Esther had said. <sup>13</sup> Then Mor'decai told them to return answer to Esther, "Think not that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. <sup>14</sup> For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, 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?" <sup>15</sup> Then Esther told them to reply to Mor'decai, <sup>16</sup> "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and

my maids will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.”<sup>17</sup> Mor'decai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

**READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

- After reading and annotating the *Literature Reading* multiple times, answer the following questions. (Refer back to the passage for answers, if necessary.)
- Answers should make use of complete sentences as well as good grammar, spelling, word choice, and so forth.
- Answers should be in your own words.
- Write your answers in below, so you have quick reference to use during the discussion.
- Review your answers before discussing to ensure that you are ready.

1. What does Mordecai do in verses 1 and 2?

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2. How did the Jews throughout every province react to the king’s command and decree?

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3. What was Queen Esther’s response to the decree (verse 4)?

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4. What did Hathach learn from Mordecai?

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5. What does Mordecai ask Esther to do in verse 8?

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6. Why would Esther's life be in danger if she went before the king?

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7. Summarize Mordecai's response to Esther in verses 13-15.

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8. What does Esther tell Mordecai to do in verse 16?

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9. Complete the following sentence: "Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law;

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