

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of September 29, 2024

THEME: "Esther"

### VIRTUOUS WOMAN

**Sunday ..... Read Proverbs 31:10-15**

*"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies."* When we think of Esther, we are reminded of this passage in Proverbs where Solomon describes a virtuous woman is totally trustworthy. She is a great homemaker, vigorously attending to all the duties expected in a home. She is very considerate to those in need and has a generous heart. The needs of others seem far more important to the virtuous woman than her own needs. To have the support and care of a godly woman is truly one of life's great benefits. Esther fit that mold! So great were Esther's accomplishments that they were recorded and became one of the books in God's Holy Word. We are the beneficiaries of having her life as part of God's instructions. That is what the Bible is according to II Timothy 3:16: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

### CONTESTANT

**Monday ..... Read Esther 2:1-3**

*"Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:"* When Queen Vashti failed to comply with the King's demands, his servants advised him to look for another wife. King Ahasuerus thought that was a good idea. He ordered his servants to gather all the fair young virgins in the Kingdom and bring them to the palace. The maiden that pleased the King would then be the queen to replace Vashti. The Jewish people, including Esther, were enslaved in this land, and she was one who would be part of this parade of virgins who appeared before the king. Our God can do anything to have His people accomplish His eternal plans for His earth, including the coming of His Son to earth to be the Savior of the world and eventually King of kings.

### ORPHAN

**Tuesday ..... Read Esther 2:4-7**

*"And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter."* As it turns out, Esther actually was an orphan, one who suffered the loss of both her mother and father. Praise God that a caring cousin took her in. Obviously God can be honored by the efforts of the extended family relatives. It is good

for people to stay in touch with aunts and uncles and cousins. We have Biblical references to such relationships; that shows God does focus on the efforts of people to be in touch with their relatives. Abraham was joined by his nephew Lot. When Mary got the news that she would be the mother of the Lord Jesus, we read in Luke 1 that she got in touch with her cousin Elizabeth. Extended families can be a rich blessing!

### QUEEN

**Wednesday ..... Read Esther 2:16-17**

*"And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti."* God has historically placed some of His people in places of authority. Obviously, those who were leaders in Israel during the days of the Old Testament were on a Divine assignment as rulers of God's chosen nation. That started with King David. The final King of Israel will be the Lord Jesus when He returns to earth for the Millennial Kingdom. As Queen, Esther was able to provide favorable leadership to her own people in the time of their bondage. Looking back, we can see the hand of God in the history of His chosen nation. God does not give His people an easy ride, but it is a victorious one. His Divine arrangements controlling the life of Esther are amazing!

### SUFFERING

**Thursday ..... Read Esther 5:1-5**

*"And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him."* When the wicked Haman was planning to exterminate the Jewish people, Queen Esther stepped in with a clever move. Haman had built a gallows to eliminate Jewish leadership. Esther requested of the king that they have a feast including Haman. It was on this occasion where Haman would be advised that he would be hanged on the very gallows he had prepared to kill others! His execution would end his threat to God's people. He wanted the Jewish people eliminated, beginning with Esther's cousin Mordecai.

### DIVINE PROTECTION

**Friday ..... Read Psalm 91:8-12**

*"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."* God has assured His people that He would provide Divine protection in dangerous times. That does not mean His people will never have times of sufferings because we have a powerful enemy in Satan, the enemy of God. We do have the assurance of God's protection according to His plans. His angels, invisible to us, are on a Divine assignment to guard His people. We have protection even when we are not consciously aware of their presence. Many of us, however, can testify of experiences when it seemed as though angels stepped in! What a comfort it is to know angels are watching over us when we are driving on the highways. Obviously, God's people should be obedient to all the traffic laws, but others may not be and pose a danger. It is often our guardian angels that must protect us from the lawlessness of others.

### SWEET REVENGE

**Saturday..... Read Esther 7:5-10**

*"And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen."* Haman had everything set for the execution of Mordecai, the Jew. But the banquet that he felt was to celebrate his accomplishments turned into a sentence for capital punishment. Esther planned the banquet for the King to issue that fatal edict. With Haman's passing, the Jewish people were spared. Their executor became the executed! How shocked Haman must have been when what he thought to be a celebration to honor him was a judgment of death for him. How amazing that God used this young orphan girl to be a national hero to the Jews.