

# Esther Chapter 10 — Crawford Standard Bible

## The Legacy of Mordecai

### A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study in Simple American English

## Introduction

Esther Chapter 10 is the shortest chapter in the Book of Esther, but it provides a powerful conclusion to the entire story.

The book began with **King Ahasuerus possessing enormous power**, Queen Vashti being removed, Esther becoming queen, and Mordecai sitting at the king's gate. It then moved through Haman's hatred, the threat against the Jews, Esther's courage, Haman's downfall, and the deliverance of God's people.

Now the story ends with **Mordecai in a position of great authority**.

The remarkable thing about Mordecai's rise is that he did not begin by seeking power. He remained faithful in difficult circumstances, protected Esther, exposed a murder plot, refused to compromise his convictions, and ultimately used his position to help his people.

Although God's name is never directly mentioned in the Book of Esther, His providence can be seen throughout the story. Esther 10 reminds us that **God can take a person who appears insignificant and place that person in a position where he can accomplish great good**.

## I. Mordecai's Rise to Power

### Esther 10:1

**“King Ahasuerus imposed a tax on the land and on the islands of the sea.”**

### Cross References

**Esther 1:1** — King Ahasuerus ruled over 127 provinces, stretching from India to Ethiopia.

**1 Kings 4:21** — Solomon ruled over the kingdoms from the Euphrates River to the land of the Philistines and the border of Egypt. These nations brought tribute and served Solomon throughout his reign.

**Psalms 72:10** — Kings from distant lands would bring gifts and tribute, and rulers from faraway places would come before the king.

### Bible Study

The first verse reminds us that the Persian Empire was enormous. Ahasuerus controlled extensive territory and had the authority to impose taxes throughout his kingdom.

The Bible does not present earthly government as something insignificant. Kings, governments, laws, taxes, armies, and nations all exist within God's sovereign oversight.

The important point is that **God's purposes were being worked out within a massive earthly empire.**

Esther did not live in a small isolated community. She lived in the center of one of the most powerful empires of her time.

Yet God was able to protect His people even there.

### **Spiritual Lesson**

**God is not limited by the size or power of human governments.**

A believer may sometimes look at the world and think that powerful people control everything. Esther reminds us that human authority is never greater than God's sovereignty.

## **II. The Greatness of Mordecai Is Recorded**

### **Esther 10:2**

**“All the powerful acts of his rule, along with a full account of Mordecai’s greatness—how the king promoted him—are recorded in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia.”**

### **Cross References**

**1 Kings 11:41** — The other events of Solomon's reign, everything he did and all his wisdom, were recorded in the official records of Solomon's reign.

**2 Kings 10:34** — The other events of Jehu's reign and everything he did are recorded in the official history of the kings of Israel.

**Nehemiah 12:23** — The heads of the Levite families were recorded in the official historical records.

### **Bible Study**

Mordecai's life had changed dramatically.

Earlier in the story, he was simply known as the man who sat at the king's gate. He had no great title. He was not seeking public recognition.

But God used his faithfulness.

Mordecai eventually became second in command to the king.

His story was important enough that his accomplishments were recorded in the official records of the Persian kingdom.

This is an important principle:

**Faithfulness may be unnoticed for a season, but it is never wasted.**

Mordecai's reward did not happen immediately.

He had faithfully protected Esther.

He had faithfully exposed the assassination plot.

He had faithfully refused to bow to Haman.

He had faithfully mourned when his people were threatened.

And eventually his faithfulness was publicly recognized.

### **Spiritual Lesson**

Do not measure the value of your obedience by how quickly you receive recognition.

**God sees what people overlook.**

## **III. Mordecai Becomes Second in Command**

### **Esther 10:3**

**“Mordecai the Jew became second in command to King Ahasuerus. He was highly respected among the Jews and admired by the multitudes of his people. He worked for the good of his people and spoke peace and well-being to all his descendants.”**

### **Cross References**

**Genesis 41:40** — Pharaoh told Joseph that he would be second in authority over Egypt. Only Pharaoh himself would have greater authority.

**Daniel 6:3** — Daniel distinguished himself above the other officials because he had an excellent spirit within him, and the king planned to place him over the entire kingdom.

**Jeremiah 29:7** — God told His people who were living in exile to seek the peace and prosperity of the city where they lived and to pray for it, because their well-being was connected to the well-being of that city.

### **Bible Study**

This is the great conclusion of Mordecai's story.

He became **second in command**.

But notice what the Bible emphasizes.

It does not simply say that Mordecai became powerful.

It says:

**“He worked for the good of his people.”**

That is the difference between selfish leadership and godly leadership.

Mordecai had authority, but he did not use authority merely for himself.

He used his position to benefit others.

His leadership was characterized by:

- responsibility,
- protection,
- peace,
- concern for others,
- wisdom,
- faithfulness,
- and service.

Mordecai's greatest achievement was not simply obtaining power.

His greatest achievement was **using power for the good of others**.

### **Spiritual Lesson**

Godly leadership is not about asking:

**“What can people do for me?”**

It asks:

**“What can I do for the people God has placed under my influence?”**

## **IV. The Providence of God Throughout Esther**

Although the Book of Esther never directly names God, His providence can be seen throughout the entire story.

Consider the sequence:

1. Vashti was removed as queen.
2. Esther was chosen as queen.
3. Mordecai was positioned at the king's gate.
4. Mordecai discovered the assassination plot.
5. Haman was promoted.
6. Haman developed hatred for Mordecai.
7. Haman plotted against the Jews.
8. Esther was positioned to intervene.
9. Esther called for fasting.
10. Esther approached the king.
11. The king showed her favor.

12. Esther delayed making her request.
13. The king could not sleep.
14. The royal records were read.
15. Mordecai's previous faithfulness was discovered.
16. Haman was forced to honor Mordecai.
17. Haman was exposed.
18. Haman was executed.
19. A new decree allowed the Jews to defend themselves.
20. The Jews were delivered.
21. Purim was established.
22. Mordecai became second in command.

From the human perspective, these events could appear to be a series of coincidences.

From the perspective of biblical faith, however, we see **divine providence at work behind the scenes.**

### **Key Thought**

**God does not have to announce Himself in every circumstance for Him to be working in that circumstance.**

## **V. Key Lessons from Esther Chapter 10**

### **1. God Honors Faithfulness**

Mordecai did not begin as a powerful man.

He began as a faithful man.

His faithfulness eventually opened the door to greater responsibility.

**Lesson:** Be faithful where God has placed you now.

### **2. Position Is a Responsibility**

Mordecai became second in command, but he did not use his authority selfishly.

He worked for the good of his people.

**Lesson:** The greater the position, the greater the responsibility to serve others.

### **3. God Can Reverse a Person's Circumstances**

Mordecai went from sitting at the king's gate to becoming second in command.

His circumstances changed dramatically.

**Lesson:** Never assume that your present circumstances are the final chapter of your life.

#### **4. God Uses Ordinary People**

Mordecai was not introduced as a king or military commander.

He was simply a Jewish man living in exile.

Yet God used him in a significant way.

**Lesson:** You do not have to be famous or powerful for God to use you.

#### **5. Great Leadership Seeks the Good of Others**

Mordecai's leadership was measured by the good he brought to his people.

**Lesson:** Biblical leadership is service, not self-promotion.

#### **6. A Good Legacy Is Built Through Faithfulness**

Mordecai's name became associated with courage, leadership, protection, and peace.

His legacy continued beyond his own lifetime.

**Lesson:** The way we live today can affect generations that come after us.

#### **7. God Writes the Final Chapter**

Haman intended to destroy Mordecai and the Jewish people.

Instead, Haman was destroyed, Mordecai was elevated, and the Jews were delivered.

**Lesson:** What looks like the end of the story may actually be the beginning of God's greatest reversal.

## **XXXVI. Questions for Personal Study**

### **Question 1**

**What happened to King Ahasuerus in Esther 10:1?**

**Answer:**

King Ahasuerus imposed a tax on the land and the islands of his empire. This demonstrates the tremendous size and governmental authority of the Persian Empire.

### **Question 2**

**Where were the events of Mordecai's greatness recorded?**

**Answer:**

They were recorded in the official chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia.

**Question 3**

**What does this teach us about Mordecai's accomplishments?**

**Answer:**

It shows that Mordecai's rise to power and his accomplishments became officially recognized. His faithfulness eventually became known publicly.

**Question 4**

**What position did Mordecai receive?**

**Answer:**

Mordecai became **second in command to King Ahasuerus**.

He became one of the most powerful people in the Persian Empire.

**Question 5**

**What is significant about Mordecai becoming second in command?**

**Answer:**

It shows the dramatic reversal God brought about in his circumstances.

Mordecai had once been an ordinary man sitting at the king's gate. He eventually became second in command.

**Question 6**

**How did Mordecai use his authority?**

**Answer:**

He used his authority for the good of his people.

The verse specifically says that he “**worked for the good of his people and spoke peace and well-being**” to them.

**Question 7**

**What is the difference between selfish leadership and godly leadership?**

**Answer:**

Selfish leadership uses authority for personal benefit.

Godly leadership uses authority to serve, protect, help, and bless others.

Mordecai provides an example of leadership that sought the welfare of his people.

**Question 8**

**What does Genesis 41:40 teach us that relates to Mordecai?**

**Answer:**

Genesis 41:40 shows Joseph being placed in a position second only to Pharaoh.

Like Joseph, Mordecai was elevated to a position of great authority and influence.

Both examples demonstrate how God can raise faithful people to positions where they can help others.

**Question 9**

**What does Daniel 6:3 teach us about leadership?**

**Answer:**

Daniel distinguished himself because of his excellent character and spirit.

This reminds us that character matters when God gives someone responsibility.

Mordecai likewise became respected because of his faithfulness and concern for his people.

**Question 10**

**What does Jeremiah 29:7 teach us about seeking the good of others?**

**Answer:**

God instructed His people to seek the peace and prosperity of the city where they lived and to pray for it.

Mordecai demonstrated a similar principle by using his position to seek the welfare of his people.

**Question 11**

**Why is Mordecai's character more important than his position?**

**Answer:**

Because a person's position tells us how much authority he has, but his character tells us how he will use that authority.



Mordecai did not allow power to make him selfish.

He used his authority for the benefit of others.

## **Question 12**

**What does Esther Chapter 10 teach about God's timing?**

**Answer:**

It teaches that God's timing may involve a long period of waiting.

Mordecai's faithfulness did not immediately result in promotion.

But eventually the circumstances came together, and he was elevated to a position where he could help his people.

## **Question 13**

**What does the entire Book of Esther teach us about divine providence?**

**Answer:**

It teaches us that God can work through ordinary circumstances, human decisions, unexpected events, and difficult situations to accomplish His purposes.

Even when God is not visibly mentioned, His providential hand can still be recognized.

## **Question 14**

**What kind of legacy did Mordecai leave?**

**Answer:**

Mordecai left a legacy of faithfulness, courage, leadership, protection, peace, and concern for his people.

His legacy was not simply that he became powerful.

His legacy was that he **used his power to help others.**

## **Question 15**

**What is the final message of Esther Chapter 10?**

**Answer:**

The final message is that **God can take a faithful person from an apparently insignificant position and place that person where he or she can accomplish great good.**

Mordecai's story ends with him serving his people and speaking peace to them.

The Book of Esther therefore ends with **deliverance, leadership, peace, and hope.**

## XXXVII. Personal Application

### 1. Am I Being Faithful Where I Am?

Mordecai did not know how his story would end.

He simply remained faithful.

**Application:** Do not wait for a bigger position before becoming faithful. Faithfulness in small things prepares us for greater responsibility.

### 2. How Do I Use the Influence God Has Given Me?

Every person has some sphere of influence.

It may be a family, church, workplace, ministry, friendship, or community.

Mordecai used his influence to help his people.

**Application:** Ask yourself:

**“Who can I help because God has placed me where I am?”**

### 3. Am I Seeking Power or Seeking to Serve?

Mordecai's authority was not the end goal.

Serving his people was.

**Application:** Christian leadership should never be primarily about status, recognition, or control.

### 4. Can God Use My Current Circumstances?

Mordecai's circumstances appeared unfavorable for much of the story.

Yet God used those very circumstances to position him for a future purpose.

**Application:** Do not assume that difficult circumstances mean God has abandoned you.

### 5. What Kind of Legacy Am I Building?

Mordecai's story continued after the crisis was over.

His legacy was connected to the good he had done for others.

**Application:** Consider what people will remember about your life.

Will they remember your possessions?

Your accomplishments?

Your position?

Or will they remember that you helped people, encouraged people, protected people, and pointed people toward God?

## Final Thought — The Hidden Hand of Providence

Esther Chapter 10 is short, but it provides a fitting conclusion to one of the Bible's greatest stories of divine providence.

Mordecai began as a Jewish exile living under Persian rule.

He ended as **second in command of the Persian Empire**.

Haman planned his destruction.

God brought Haman down.

Haman wanted Mordecai humiliated.

God honored Mordecai.

Haman wanted the Jewish people destroyed.

God delivered them.

And Mordecai ultimately used his authority “**for the good of his people**” and spoke peace to them.

The Book of Esther teaches us that **God can be working even when we cannot see Him working**.

Sometimes the greatest evidence of God's providence is found not in a spectacular miracle, but in a series of circumstances that come together at exactly the right time.

**Esther became queen.**

**Mordecai discovered the plot.**

**Haman was promoted.**

**Esther was positioned to speak.**

**The king could not sleep.**

**The records were opened.**

**Mordecai was remembered.**

**Haman was exposed.**

**The Jews were delivered.**

And finally:

**Mordecai was elevated to leadership so that he could seek the peace and welfare of his people.**

**The great lesson of Esther is this:**

**God may be hidden from our sight, but He is never absent from our circumstances.**

### **Crawford Standard Bible Study Summary**

**Faithfulness prepares us.**

**Prayer strengthens us.**

**Courage moves us.**

**Providence positions us.**

**God's timing vindicates us.**

**And godly leadership blesses others.**

**Esther ends with a man who was once sitting at the king's gate becoming a man who stood in the king's palace—and using his influence not for himself, but for the good of God's people.**