For Such a Time as This

The Story of Esther

By Trudy Wright

Edited by Barbara Chase & Janel Tyson

Cast:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narrator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadassah, Esther, a Jewish maiden of Shushan, Queen of Media-Persia, Daughter of Abihail, star, myrtle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Ahasuerus, Xerxes I, 486-465 B.C. of Media-Persia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vashti, Queen of Media-Persia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mordecai, Nephew of Abihail, Tribe of Benjamin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatach, Kings Chamberlain, Head Eunuch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haman, Son of Hammedatha the Agagite, One of the seven princes of Media-Persia, Prime Minister</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeresh, Haman’s Wife</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hegai-Keeper of Women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shethar, One of the seven princes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admantha, One of the seven princes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsena, One of the seven princes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memucan, One of the seven princes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bigthan, Keeper of the Gate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tereh, Keeper of the Gate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scribe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harbonah- Chamberlain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korrisa, Friend of Hadassah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mya, Maid in waiting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sashi, Maid in waiting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dari, Maid in waiting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tirzah, Maiden from Bagistana, Media</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ziahi, Maiden from Persepolis, Persis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joellafan, Maiden from Thebes, Egypt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Characters from the Book of Esther are in bold.
For Such a Time as This

The Story of Esther

Act I  In the Palace

   Scene I  The Celebration
   Scene II  The Refusal
   Scene III  The Decree

Act II  In Shushan

   Scene I  Obeying the King

Act III  A New Queen

   Scene I  Preparation
   Scene II  Parade
   Scene III  Favor

Act IV  The Conspiracy

   Scene I  The Plot
   Scene II  The Promotion
   Scene III  The Posting

Act V  A Time of Mourning

   Scene I  Mordecai’s Fast
   Scene II  Hatach’s Findings
   Scene III  Esther’s Dilemma
   Scene IV  Esther’s Requests

Act VI  Salvation

   Scene I  Chronicles
   Scene II  Humiliation
   Scene III  Revelation

Dates from the Seventh-day Adventist Commentary
Stage 2
Palace

Stage 1
Queen’s Apartment and House of Women

Stage 3
Mordecai’s home in Shushan and Haman’s Home

Stage Set-up

Stage 1
Decorated with:
- Tapestries and draperies
- Chaise Lounge & Pillow
- Stool
- Low Table with Food
- Silver Utensils
- Oriental Rug

Stage 2
Throne
- Vessels and food on a table
- Light Purple and White Hangings fastened with Cords of Fine Purple Linen fastened on Sliver Rings
- Vessels of Gold.
- Red Carpet
- Gold Runner

Kings Gate:
- Marble Pillars

Stage 3
Table
- Blue Print Tablecloth
- Two Chairs
- Middle east oil Lamp
- Pot on table
- Basket of bread
- Wooden Pail on floor
- Plain Blue Rug

Props

Silver Tray- spices, perfume, herbs
- Golden scepter
- Golden Griffin Vessel-King
- Cone shapes drinking cups
- Silver vessels-Queen
- Silver Tray
- Clothes
- Handkerchief

Decree
- King’s Crown
- Queen’s Crown
- Cone Golden Goblets
- 2 tall fans
- one large short fan
- 2 Spears

Book of Chronicles
- Sedan Chair
- Baskets and Trays of Food such as:
  - Bread, Juice, Fruit
  - Wooden bowl & pail
  - Middle eastern oil lamp
## Pronunciation Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>transcription</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admantha</td>
<td>Ad-man’tha</td>
<td>add-MAN-thuh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahasuerus</td>
<td>A-has-u-e’rus</td>
<td>ah-haz’uh-EE-ruhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bigthan</td>
<td>Big’than</td>
<td>BIG-tuh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadassah</td>
<td>Ha-das’sah</td>
<td>huh-DAS-uh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haman</td>
<td>Ha’man</td>
<td>HAY-muh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatach</td>
<td>Ha’tach</td>
<td>HAY-tak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hegai</td>
<td>Heg’ai’</td>
<td>hag-a-l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsena</td>
<td>Mar’se’na</td>
<td>mahr-SEE-nuh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memucan</td>
<td>Me’mu’can</td>
<td>MEH-moo-can</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mordecai</td>
<td>Mor’de-cai</td>
<td>MOR-duh-ki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shethar</td>
<td>She’thar</td>
<td>SHAY-thawr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shushan</td>
<td>Shu’shan</td>
<td>SHOO-shan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresh</td>
<td>Te’resh</td>
<td>TEE-resh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vashti</td>
<td>Vash’ti</td>
<td>VASH-ti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xerxes</td>
<td>Xerx’es</td>
<td>ZERK-seez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeresh</td>
<td>Zer’esh</td>
<td>ZER-esh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Act I

In the Palace of the King

Scene I The Celebration (Stages I and II) 482 BC

Cast: Vashti, Myra, Sashi, Prince Admatha, Prince Marsena, Prince Shethar, Prince Memucan

Props: Sack clothes, Goblets, Golden scepter.

Narrator: This came to pass in Shushan, in what today would be in the country of Iran, during the third year of the reign of King Ahasuerus. His reign covered from western India even unto Ethiopia, over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, covering over two million square miles. The author of the book of Esther is not known. It could possibly be the prophet Ezra who did not leave Persia until later or Mordecai.

The Jewish people came to Babylon in three captivities: 605 BC, when Daniel came; 597, when Jehoiachin was captured; and in 586 BC, when Jerusalem was burned. Mordecai’s family came in the second captivity. This time period marks a distinction in the Jewish people being considered a race of people and not just a nation.

King Ahasuerus feasted with all the princes and nobles of his provinces for one hundred and eighty days showing his riches. When these days were over, he called a feast for all the men that were present in the palace. All were invited, both humble and noble, for seven days. At the same time, Vashti, the queen, held a feast for all the women in the royal house.

(Lighting comes on in the Queen’s apartment) (Vashti sits on the chaise, Mya on the chair, Sashi on a floor pillow)

Vashti: (Toasting) Live, love, and laugh my friends!

Mya: Vashti, this is a wonderful celebration you have given to us!

Sashi: Yes, it is the best. I wish it could go on forever. We love being with you.

Vashti: We have just begun to celebrate. I won’t leave you, my dearest friends. (Touching her hand to her heart) (Cast remains in place, silently pretending to laugh and talk having an exciting time together. The scene switches to the Palace. Drinking is going on and there is disarray.)

(Lighting switches on in the King’s Palace)

Prince Admatha: (Bowing) Oh King, live forever!

King Ahasuerus: Ah, It is good to be among my Shushan friends. Eat, drink, and be merry! Harbonah, Come. (Harbonah steps forward.) I have a strong desire to see my lovely wife, Vashti, and have her with me. She is very beautiful, you know, and I want to look on her. I also want you to look on her. Harbonah, bring Vashti to me. Quickly! Go! (Harbonah leaves)

Prince Admatha: (With enthusiasm) I have seen her from a distance. She is as gorgeous as our king says!

Prince Marsena: (Dreamily) Ah, I long to see her. What an honor. She is so... beautiful.

(Lighting switches back to the queen’s apartment)
Scene II The Refusal (Stage I) (Stage II-silent)

Cast: Vashti, Harbonah, Myra, Sashi

(Queen and women are laughing, but quiet when Harbonah enters)

Vashti: (Standing) Harbonah, what do you want with us?

Harbonah: O Queen, the King sent me to get you so he can show off your great beauty to his princes. They have been wishing to see you because the King has said so much about you these past months.

Vashti: Is the King drunk with much wine?

Harbonah: (Very uncomfortable with the question.) Well, ah, um, ah...

Vashti: (Angrily and then sadly) That is the answer. I can see he is. It has been months since I have seen the King. What can he want of me when he is drunk with wine? I am entertaining my friends. Am I only a piece to show his subjects? Am I to be on display, to be shown like a horse? Am I to be a show for drunken men?

Harbonah: (Shocked) Vashti, you must come with me! You have no choice in the matter. It is the Kings wish.

Vashti: (Pausing, but fearful) I have choice for I am queen. Tell the king I cannot come. Tell him, I am entertaining my friends and I must not leave them. Our celebration has only begun.

Harbonah: But... But you must come. The King’s wishes are always granted. His word is law.

Vashti: (Shakes her head and turns away putting her face in her hands.)

Harbonah: (Bows and takes his leave.)

Vashti: (Turns to her friends, but the joy is gone from her.)

(The celebration goes on silently.)

Narrator: It is not fully known the reason Vashti refused to go in to the king. Perhaps past experience with such drunken events kept her from complying. Perhaps we should even admire her. We do know it was part of a larger plan to save God’s chosen people.
Scene III The Decree (Stage 2) (Stage 1- silent)

Cast: King Ahazuerus, Vashti, Myra, Sashi, Prince Shethar, Prince Admantha, Prince Marsena, Prince Mumucan

Props: Decree (Lighting returns to the Palace)

King Ahazuerus: (Seated) Ah, here is Harbonah. You may now look on my beautiful queen...but wait, why does he come alone? (Standing and addressing Harbonah) Where is Vashti? (Pauses) (Emphatically) Where is Vashti?

Harbonah: (Bowling) (Agitated and wringing his hands) Oh King, live forever. She...ah...she... (Blurting it out) She says she cannot come! (In horror) She said that she must celebrate with her friends.

King Ahazuerus: What? (Emphatically) Who am I that she should refuse my command? (Angrily) No wife should refuse her husband and I- I am King! You know the Law. What should be done according to the Law, for disobeying the command of the King? (Pompously) And, I... I am King of all Media-Persia!

Prince Memucan: (Passionately using hand motions) Vashti, the queen has not done wrong only to the king, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in the province of King Ahazuerus. It shall be reported that the King’s command for Vashti to be brought in before him was not obeyed. (Mood darkening) Because of the Queen’s example, other wives will despise their husbands. Husbands will no longer be given respect. Women will arise with contempt and wrath!

(With a smug look) Let me suggest, if it please the king of course, let a royal commandment be written in the laws of the Persians and Medes that cannot be altered. It should decree that Vashti can’t come before King Ahazuerus anymore. (Princes gasp) (Louder with emphasis) Then you, O King, should give her royal estate and title to another who is better than she! Send this decree out into all the provinces in every language. It will give every man the ability to rule in his own house and command wives to give their husband honor. (Wagging his head up and down with a satisfied look) This will show those wayward wives who is in control of the household. Then all the wives will give their husbands the respect and honor that they deserve.

King Ahazuerus: (Nodding thoughtfully and raising his scepter) Yes! Scribe, write it out, let it be as you say. (Pauses for the scribe to write) (signs)

Prince Shethar: (With excitement) O King, we will search the land for beautiful, young, and pure girls. You can appoint officers in each province of the kingdom to find these maidens. We will bring them here to Hegai who is in charge of the women in the palace. (Triumphanty) Then let the one that pleases you most take Vashti’s place as queen.

(All vacate the stage: palace and queen’s apartment.) (Lights off)
Act II Shushan

Scene I Obeying the King (Stage III) 459 BC

Cast: Hadassah, Korrisa, Mordecai

Props: Handkerchief for Hadassah

(Lights on in Shushan, home of Mordecai and Hadassah)

(Korrisa and Hadassah)

Narrator: Hadassah was a beautiful, kind-hearted, and talented girl. She was going to change the world one day and she didn’t even realize it. Since her parents died, Mordecai, her cousin, became a father to her. Mordecai held a minor office in the palace. He was aware of the subterfuge and deceptive plots and plans that happen there. He knew the precarious position of the Jewish people in the Persian Empire.

Hadassah: Korrisa, you are my dearest friend. Who knows if I will ever see your face again? I wish I could stay here with you.

Korrisa: You have been my soul mate. I can’t imagine Shushan without you. (Begins to weep)

Hadassah: (Taking her handkerchief and drying her tears.) Now don’t cry for you will make me cry as well. We will pray for each other. We will always be bound together in our thoughts. We will meet again when Messiah comes.

Korrisa: I must leave to prepare our evening meal. Goodbye Hadassah! The Lord bless you and keep you.

Hadassah: May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

Korrisa and Hadassah: (Together) The Lord will lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace. And the Lord shall put his name upon the children of Israel, and bless them. iii (Hug and Kiss each other tenderly.) (Korrisa leaves and Mordecai enters.)

Hadassah: Mordecai, welcome home. How was your day?

Mordecai: You never saw so much excitement in the street. Everyone is talking about who will be the new queen.

Hadassah: Mordecai, how long have our people been in captivity and away from Judah?

Mordecai: (With his finger on his face and thinking) Let me see. I guess it has been about 118 years. Your Father, Abihail, was very in love with your mother. She was kind and very beautiful...just as you are my dear. I wish they could see what a lovely person you have turned out to be.

Hadassah: I was just thinking about the story of Ruth and how she loved God and her mother-in-law so much she followed her back into our country. If she had not chosen to follow God, she would have never met and married Boaz. They loved each other so very much. (Sadly) I had hoped that I would know such love one day. Why must I be beautiful? (Emphatically) It is a curse if it takes me from you!
Mordecai: Always put your trust in the Lord, my daughter. God knows the plans he has for you, plans to prosper you.⁴…Plans better and bigger than you could ever dream, my dear one.

Hadassah: You have been a wonderful father to me. I do not want to leave you. You are my only family. I do not wish to go with the king’s men. I would rather stay and care for you. Who else will care for you in your old age? (Passionately, weeping) How can I bare to leave you and be alone among strangers?! I don’t know anyone in the palace!

Mordecai: Did Ruth know God’s plan? God will go with you my dearest daughter. Who knows? This may be the will of our Father in Heaven. Always trust Him.

Hadassah: But, how will I bear it? (Weeping)

Mordecai: You must promise me one thing.

Hadassah: Anything, my Father.

Mordecai: Promise me that you will tell no one that you are Jewish.

Hadassah: Tell no one I am Jewish? I am proud of my Jewish heritage...

Mordecai: (With urgency) You must promise me!

Hadassah: Yes, Father.

Mordecai: “O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.”⁵ Give thanks in all things and bear it cheerfully.

Hadassah: (bowing) I will try, father.

(Light fades in Shushan)
Act III

A New Queen

Scene I Preparation (Stage I)

**Cast:** Hegai, Esther

**Props:** Tray of herbs, oils, and perfumes.

**Narrator:** Hadassah was taken with all the gathered maidens to the keeper of the women, Hegai. He gave her the name of Esther and she found favor in the sight of Hegai. She kept her promise to Mordecai and didn’t tell anyone of her Jewish heritage. Hegai took special care of Esther for he saw that she was different from all the rest of the women, a women that showed great promise of being his queen.

(Lights on Stage I)

(Esther is seated on chaise and alone. Hegai enters with two maidens, one carrying the tray.)

Hegai: These young women will be your maids. *(Indicating Mya and Dari)*

Esther: Hegai, you are so kind to me. What makes you so?

Hegai: Somehow you are different than all the others. It is my hope that you will be my queen, dear Esther.

Esther: But I am just a simple maid. Surely there are others more worthy than I.

Hegai: Esther, you do not realize you are more than a simple maid. You are not only beautiful and fair, but kind and gracious to everyone. You have a queenly manner. What makes you so? You do not squabble with the other maidens as the rest do. You have a sweet spirit toward all people, both rich and poor, high and low. It is a pleasure to serve you. We bring you oil of myrrh and sweet herbs for your bath today. We must do all we can to present you properly to the King and fulfill your purification. *(Cheerfully)* My hope is with you, Esther dear. *(Nodding his head)* I know the King!

(Lights off Stage I)
Scene II Parade (Stage II)

Cast: King Ahasuerus, Hegai, Hatach, Joellafan, Ziahi, Tirzah

Props: Scepter, fan and shawl for Joellafan, headdress for Ziahi, and a tiara and veil for Tirzah.

(Lights on in the Palace)

Narrator: After a year of purification in the palace of the king the women were brought for an audience with the King.

King Ahasuerus: *(Bellowing, impatiently clapping his hands)* Let us begin.

*(Hegai in attendance and helping the girls)*

Hatach: *(With a formal bow and then a sweep of his hand)* May I present to you Joellafan of Thebes, from the province of Egypt.

Joellafan: *(Enters with her large and brightly colored fan and has great difficulty waving it and controlling it and her clothing.)* Oh, Oh!

King Ahasuerus: *(Shakes his head and waves her on and out.)*

Hatach: *(With a formal bow and a sweep of his hand)* May I present to you Ziahi of Bagistana, from the province of Media.

Ziahi: *(Enters proudly erect, but when she bows her large and outlandish headdress falls apart and off her head, trying to catch it. She fumbles and leaves trying to put her headdress together.)* Oh No, Oh No.

King Ahasuerus: *(Shakes his head in disgust.)*

Hatach: *(With a formal bow and then a sweep of his hand and looking more pleased with the way this girl looks.)* May I present to you, *(pauses)* Tirzah of Persepolis from the Province of Persis.

Tirzah: *(Enters and turns like a model so the King can admire her, but in the process she trips over her veil, stumbles and almost falls. She leaves crying and trying to get her long trailing veil under control.)*

King Ahasuerus: *(In disgust waves her away with his hand. Standing)* Enough! Enough! Isn’t there one fit to be my Queen?

*(The King remains, but the others leave and come back with Esther in the next scene.)*

(Lights off)
Scene III Favor (Stage II) 478 BC

Cast: King Ahasuerus, Esther, Hatach, Hegai

Props: Queen’s crown, Scepter

Narrator: For twelve months Mordecai came to the king’s court to find and check on Esther, making certain that she was safe and trying to find out what would become of her. One by one, each maiden was brought in and presented to the king. Still there was no word of a new Queen. But he did find out that Esther was finding favor in the sight of everyone who looked upon her. In the seventh year of the reign of King Ahasuerus Esther was brought in before the King.

(Lights on in the palace)

(King on Throne, Hatach present)

(Hatach: (With a bow) Hegai, Keeper of the Women, has a maiden to present to you.

Hegai: O king, live forever. May I present to you a very special maiden that has found favor in the sight of all, (With ceremony) Esther of Shushan!

King Ahasuerus: Come forward that I may see you. (Stretches his scepter out for her to touch) Ah, yes this is more like it!

Esther: (Touching the scepter) My King. (She bows)

King Ahasuerus: How lovely you are. Hegai is right! Are you happy in my court? Does it please you?

Esther: (Graciously) Oh yes my King. I have had such a lovely time. Hegai has been wonderful to me, actually... (Looking affectionately toward him) (Reverently) like a father to me.

King Ahasuerus: That pleases me. I am told that many love you already. You are the talk of the palace and I can see why. Your beauty and your grace is above all others. (To Hegai) You have been holding back on me! (To Esther) Would it please you to be my Queen?

Esther: I am but a simple maid, but as the king wills.

King Ahasuerus: I have heard that you care for the people in my Kingdom, and I have heard of your compassion for them.

Esther: I care for all the people in your kingdom... (Bowling) and for you my King.

King Ahasuerus: You have found favor in my sight. Yes...You shall be queen to me and to my people.

Esther: Whatever the King wishes.
King Ahasuerus: *(Standing)* We must prepare a feast. We must celebrate our new queen. *(Loudly to all)* Set the crown on her head. Prepare the feast. Spare nothing! *(Hagai triumphantly places crown on Esther's head.)*

Narrator: Thus, Esther found favor with the King, and King Ahasuerus made Esther Queen of all Media-Persia.
Act IV

The Conspiracy

Scene I The Plot (Stage II, the king’s gate) 478 BC

Cast: Bigthan, Teresh, Mordecai

Props: Spears

(Players in place: Mordecai is standing on the side, out of sight from the others; Haman passes by. Bigthan and Teresh bow, but Mordecai does not bow.)

Narrator: Mordecai ever keeping his ears open in the palace becomes aware of information that will later be very important.

(Spotlight on Bigthan and Teresh)

Bigthan: (Mordecai is sitting slightly out of Bigthan’s sight.) We have faithfully kept the door of the king’s Gate for seven years and yet who does he promote but Jebuel! (Spitting it out) That snake. (Beating on his chest) I am the one that should receive the promotion. I deserve the honor. (Shaking his fist) The king will be sorry for this. I will see to that.

Teresh: What do you plan to do?

Bigthan: Tonight while the king sleeps we must do something. Hmm... I know. We will hide in the king’s chamber. We will slay him with my spear. No one will know until the morning. By then we will be gone. We must take on oath of silence and allegiance.

Teresh: It is done.

Bigthan: (Looking suspiciously around to see that they are alone) (quietly) I Bigthan promise...

Teresh: I Teresh promise...

Bigthan: (Decidedly) ...That before morning light, the King will feel my revenge with his death!

Teresh: (Nervously)... That before morning light, the King will feel my revenge with his death!

(Put their heads together and whisper.)

(Spotlight off)

Narrator: Mordecai left while they plotted. Mordecai told officials in the palace of the plot to kill the king and the plot was relayed to the King and told of Mordecai’s loyalty in uncovering the plot. Bigthan and Teresh were hanged and it was written in the Chronicles of the King.
Scene II The Promotion (Stage III)

Cast: Hamen, Zeresh

Narrator: The king advanced Hamen, the son of Hamadatha the Agagite, to be Prime Minister. Mordecai did not reverence him because of his cruel nature. Mordicai was a descendant of King Saul and perhaps this played into it as well. Haman was a direct descendant of Agag, King of the Amalekites. vi The Amalekites were old enemies of the Jewish people under King Saul.

(Lights on Stage III, Haman’s Apartment)

Haman: (Pompously sticking out his chest and walking around.) Think of it. The king promoted me over all the Princes, and yet that Mordecai refuses to bow and give me honor. (Whining) He is a servant, yet he will not reverence me.

Zeresh: (Sweetly) Haman, you are the Prime Minister. Use your power. Don’t lower yourself. Don’t let him humiliate you. We are now the top family in all of Media-Persia. I have servants. You ruled a province and now you rule over all the provinces. (With a sweep of her hand) Yes, we are the most important family in the land. (Spitting it out) Mordecai is just a Jew. Only a short while ago, he was still a slave! He is now little more than a slave. (Sighing) Everywhere I turn there are Jews.

Haman: (Angrily, holding up his hands, shaking them and opening them) I feel like laying hands on him myself, a Jew, a nothing in Shushan. (Swishing his hands away) (Angrily) I will make him pay!

Zeresh: (Fearfully) You must be careful and use discretion. Wait for the right moment. Think of your position, think of your importance.

Haman: (With decision, holding up a finger and nodding his head) I will destroy him ...and his people... as sure as I am Prime Minister, second in command, of all Media-Persia. (Puffing out his chest) I can wait no longer. Tomorrow, I must make the King a willing player in my scheme. (Looking up with a cynical grin) Our sons are now helping to build a gallows 50 cubits high for hanging Mordicai. It must be tall so all of Suza can see what happens to one that does not bow to me. (Pounds his chest)

(Lights off)

Narrator: Men in the palace respected Mordecai and warned him of Haman.

“Worldly greatness is little proof of either greatness or goodness of soul.”vii
Scene III The Posting (Stage II)

Cast: Hatach, Haman, King Ahasuerus

Props: Scepter, Letter, Undisputed alleged copy of the decree

(Lights on in the palace)

Narrator: Massacres on a large scale were not uncommon in Persia. Under the previous king, Darius, the Magi were massacred and the Scythians. Lots were a way to determine how things took place and who would carry them out. Lots were cast by: dice, chips of wood, strips of parchment, by white and black stones or by other ways such as counting.

(The King is on the throne with Hatach at his side.)

Hatach: Haman to see you, Oh King. (Haman enters and the King holds out his scepter.)

Haman: (Bowling) O King, live forever. (Flatteringly with ceremony) May you prosper and be in health always.

King: What brings you here, my Prince?

Haman: There is a matter that I must tell you about for the prosperity of your kingdom. There is a group scattered among your people in all provinces of your kingdom. They have laws different from your laws. (Sadly shaking his head) They do not keep your laws. It is not in the king’s best interest to not tolerate them any longer. If it pleases the King, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the Kings’ administrators for the royal treasury.

King Ahasuerus: How generous of you, Haman. Here is my signet ring. (Waving his hand) Do with this people as it seems good to you. The silver is yours. Destroy this people that will not follow our laws. Scribe, come and record this and we will toast to it. (Scribe hurries in.)

Scribe: (Could read the decree)

Narrator: It was written that all the Jewish people in all the provinces of the whole kingdom would be destroyed. A post would go out by horses. It was written in all languages that it would happen on a certain day. All the Jewish people scattered though out all the vast Persian Empire were to be killed and thus all the Jewish people would perish: old and young, men, women, and children -- in one day, on the 14th day of the 12th month. The Persians would greatly prosper at the expense of the Jewish population.

Haman’s bribe to the king would have been worth millions in today’s economy. The spoil would go to who would take it.
Act V

Mourning in the Provinces

Scene I Mourning (Stage II-King’s Gate)

Cast: Mordecai

(Spotlight on Mordecai at the King’s gate.)

Mordecai: (Enters and sits at the King’s gate in sack cloth and ashes. He rocks back and forth moaning in mourning, then he gets up and leaves.)

(Repeat: Goes out and come back.) (Mordecai remains at the gate.)

Narrator: Day after day Mordecai came to sit at the King’s gate to mourn the plight of his people. Other Jews followed suit. There was weeping and mourning throughout the provinces. Many put on sack clothes and ashes.

(Mordecai stays on stage)
Scene II Hatach’s Findings

(Stages I & II-Queen’s Apartment and the King’s Gate)

Cast: Mya, Esther

Narrator: Queen Esther learns of the plan to annihilate her people.

(Lights on the Queen’s Apartment)

Mya: I heard there is a man that comes and sits at the King’s Gate every day.

Esther: (Cheerfully looking out the window) What a lovely day. What is so unusual about that, Mya? Many people sit at the Kings Gate to talk.

Mya: Well, they say this man is dressed in sackcloth and ashes and is in mourning. I don’t think they should allow it. It clutters and dirties our beautiful palace. Everyone in the palace is talking about it.

Esther: (Beginning to look concerned) Who is this man and why is he in mourning?

Mya: His name is Mordecai, a Jew.

Esther: (Turns with grave concern) Oh no! I wonder what the problem is? (Wringing her hands) We must find out about it at once. Go and find Hatach for me. And go quickly.

(Mya leaves)
Scene III Esther’s Dilemma (Stage I)

Queen’s Apartment

Cast: Hatach, Esther, Mordecai

Narrator: Esther’s dilemma illustrates the important role of women in God’s plan of salvation for his people. Mordecai realized the providence of God in Esther’s status as queen.

Esther: (Hatach enters) Hatach! Hatach! (With relief) Thank you for coming!

Hatach: Yes, my queen. (bows) Why are you so distressed? What brings this on? What can I do for my Queen this morning? Anything for you, my Queen!

Esther: Please, you must go and see a man named Mordecai who sits at the King’s Gate and find out for me what is troubling him. Come back at once and report it to me. Here, take him these clothes and tell him to put them on and... tell him I sent you. Hurry! And... you must take a vow of silence.

Hatach: Yes, my queen. You have my promise.

King’s Gate (Stage II)

Props: Decree

(Esther is pacing and wringing her hands in her apartment.)

(Spotlight still on Hatach and Mordecai)

Hatach: (Holding out the clothes) The queen requests that you give me your sackcloth and put on this new raiment. She commands you to tell her why you have put on sackcloth and ashes.

Mordecai: (Refuses to put on the clothes. Shakes his head) No, I cannot change these clothes. Haman has given ten thousand talents of silver unto the King to murder all the Jewish people. Here is a copy of the decree. (Handing him the decree parchment) Tell the queen she must go in to the King and make a request unto him to save her people.

Hatach: (Gasps) Her people? (Hatach departs. Mordecai remains in mourning.)

(Spotlight off)
The Queen’s Apartment (Stage I)

Hatach: (Returns with the clothes and the decree) Esther, here is the decree for which Mordecai mourns. It is a decree against the Jewish people. Mordecai says you must ask the king to save your people.

Esther: OH! How can it be? (Pacing) Hatach, you must go back to Mordecai and tell him for me what the whole kingdom knows: No one goes in unto the King unless he is called by the King. This is unto death except to whom the King holds out his golden scepter... and (hanging her head) and (looking up and covering her face) he has not called me for 30 days!

Hatach: I will go to him. I will make him understand. Calm yourself. Do not fear, my Queen.

The King’s Gate (Stage II)

(Spotlight on Mordecai and Hatach)

Hatach: Mordecai, think what you asking of our Queen. Esther might be killed by going in unto the King without being summoned.

Mordecai: Tell Esther that she will not be safe in the King’s house any more than any other Jew. If you do not tell the king, then God must deliver the Jews in another way, but you and your father’s house will be destroyed. Who knows whether you are come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

The Queen’s Apartment (Stage I)

Hatach: (enters) Esther, are you of Jewish heritage?

Esther: Yes, Hatach, I am. You must tell no one until we can solve this matter. I know I can trust you. What did Mordecai tell you?

Hatach: He said that you must petition the King and that you will not escape, but be destroyed with all other Jews. He said if you refuse, God will provide another deliverer for his people. He said you are here for such a time as this. He seemed very sure. What can he mean by this?

Esther: Sadly, he means the Living God of Heaven will provide someone to deliver his people if I ...? (Pauses) Tell Mordecai to go and gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan. Fast and pray for three days and three nights. My maidens and I will do likewise and (stands proudly erect) so I will go in unto the king, which is according to the law... and if I perish, I perish.\(^{11}\)

(All leave)
Narrator: Mordecai did according to all Esther commanded of him. All the Jews fasted and prayed. Esther and her maidens did likewise. On the third day, Esther put on her royal apparel and stood in the main court of the King.
Scene IV Esther’s Requests (Stage II-Palace)

Cast: Hatach, Esther, Haman, Mordecai, Zeresh

Props: Scepter

Narrator: Esther realized that without the sustaining power of God her task would be to no avail. Esther’s character traits of: courage, loyalty, and self-sacrifice in the face of peril is needed by each of us today.

(Lights on in the Palace)

Hatach: The Queen enters, my King

Queen Esther: (Humbly, with grace and dignity, softly smiles)

King Ahasuerus: (Holds out his Royal Scepter to Esther)

Queen Esther: (Smile broadens, breathes and draws near to touch the scepter)

King Ahasuerus: What is your wish, my Queen? It shall be given to you even to the half of my kingdom.\textsuperscript{xii}

Queen Esther: Let the King and Haman come this day unto the banquet I have prepared for you.\textsuperscript{xiii}

King Ahasuerus: (Proudly) It will be my pleasure to dine with my Queen! We will be honored to come!

(King turning to Hatach) Tell Haman to hurry so we don’t keep the Queen waiting. (Esther exits)

(Lights off in the Palace)

(All exit)

Queen’s Apartment (Stage I)

(Lights on in the Queen’s apartment)

Esther: (seated, King and Haman enter)(Mya and Sashi serving)

Esther: (Graciously standing and bowing) Please come in, be comfortable. (The King sits on the chaise with Esther and Haman on the seat, Dari serves them some food.)

King Ahasuerus: What is your request, my Queen? I would give you anything... even half of my kingdom.

Esther: My petition, my request is: If I have found favor in the sight of the King, and if it please the King to grant my petition and my request, let the King and Haman come to a banquet that I shall prepare for them and I will answer the question the King asks.\textsuperscript{xiv}

Haman: (Looks extremely happy and mumbles under his breath.) What honor! I am to dine with the King and Queen again! (Haman and the King exit)

(Lights off in the Queen’s apartment)
King’s Gate (Stage II)

Narrator: On his way home, Haman passes Mordecai in sackcloth and ashes, but Mordecai will not look up and will not bow.

(Spotlight on Haman and Mordecai by the King’s Gate)

Mordecai: (Sitting in mourning)

Hamen: You will pay dearly. (Angrily shaking his fist) And soon!  (Spotlight off)

Hamen’s Apartment (Stage III)

Prop: god

Narrator: Haman had not learned correct lessons in life. His nature was little better than a savage. “Worldly greatness is little proof of either greatness or goodness of soul.”

(Lights on in Hamen’s apartment)

Hamen: I am exceedingly rich and increased with goods and children, and now I am honored twice to dine at a banquet with the King and Queen. Think of it, I only am asked to go again tomorrow. I love honor and power and I have both. (Expression changes, he shakes his head and looks angry) Except that Mordecai! He still refuses to bow to me. I can’t bear it any longer!

Zeresh: (Sweetly) Be at peace, Haman, patience. It will not be long until the day when all the Jews perish! Isn’t the gallows just now being finished?

Hamen: Yes, but it can’t be any too soon for me.

Zeresh: Hang Mordecai tomorrow and then go happily to the banquet with the King. Mordecai can be the first to have the pleasure of your gallows.

Hamen: Yes. (Pauses) I know it is late, (Nods his head) but I will go immediately and ask the King to hang Mordecai tomorrow.

Zeresh: (Standing and prophesying) Triumph will come to those the god’s exalt.

Hamen: (Turns and leaves.) (Bows to a god on the way out)

Narrator: There were many god’s worshiped by the Persians. Perhaps Haman bowed to Daevas, god of wrath and revenge, lust and anger.

(Lights off in Haman’s apartment)
Act VI

Salvation

Scene I Chronicles (Stage II- Palace)

Cast: King Ahauerus, Hatach, Haman

Props: Book of Chronicles

(Lights on in the Palace)

King Ahasuerus: \(\textit{Pacing}\) Hatach!

Hatach: Yes, my King.

King Ahasuerus: I cannot sleep “Bring the book of records, the chronicles, and read to me.

Hatach: Yes, O King. \(\textit{Bringing the book}\) I will read the latest entries back.

Narrator: The King’s Chamberlain read for a while and then came a very interesting find.

Hatach: Hmm… Here is one of interest. Bigthan and Tereh, keepers of the gate plotted to murder you, O King. A man named Mordecai sent word of the plot. The plot was averted and Bigthan and Tereh were hanged.

King Ahasuerus: What was done for this man Mordecai?

Hatach: I don’t believe anything was done for him, my King.

King Ahasuerus: What? Nothing done for a man that saves the King’s life? We must correct that immediately! What honor and dignity should be done for such a great deed?

Hatach: Wait, I hear someone. \(\textit{Goes to check}\) Haman is here to see you.

King Ahasuerus: Give him entry. \(\textit{Haman enters}\) Haman, what shall be done unto the man the king delights to honor?

Haman: \(\textit{Smiling broadly and sticking out his chest}\) Let the royal apparel be brought, which the King himself wears, and set the royal crown on his head, and let one of the most noble princes of all proclaim through the streets. “This is what is done to the man whom the king delights to honor.”

King Ahasuerus: Brilliant: Go quickly and do this for Mordecai the Jew. I’m told he sits at the King’s Gate each day. Oh and Haman, since you are my noblest of princes, you can lead him. Let nothing fail!

Haman: \(\textit{Crestfallen}\) But, my King...

King Ahazuerus: That will be all. Now I am very sleepy. \(\textit{Yawning}\) Good night. That will be all. \(\textit{Waves them away}\) (Light off in the Palace)
Scene II Humiliation (Stage III, Stage II-Kings gate)

Kings Gate

Cast: Mordecai, Haman, Zeresh, Hatach

Prop: Sedan chair/litter

Narrator: And so on the next morning, Haman was forced to honor Mordecai, the man he wanted to see hanging from his gallows. “In the mouth of the foolish is the rod of Pride” Proverbs 14:3

(Mordecai sits at the King’s gate. Hamen comes with the King’s apparel and crown and goes before him up and down the aisle as the crier. Mordecai is carried on a sedan chair down the aisle and back up by the princes)

(Spotlight on)

Haman: (Over and over without pleasure) This is what is done for the one the King delights to honor.

(Mordecai returns to the King’s gate in royal apparel and sits down.)

Haman’s Apartment

(Lights on Haman’s Apartment)

Haman: (Exhausted, dejected, crying and whining) You wouldn’t believe all I have had to do this day to honor Mordecai. Me... Chief of the princes of all Media-Persia, Prime Minister! I tell you it was humiliating.

Zeresh: (Standing and Prophesying) Mordecai, the Jew, before whom you have begun to fall, you shall not overcome him, but will surely fall before him.

Haman: (With a look of horror) This can’t be so-- (Hatach appears) I must go now to the banquet with the King and Queen. (Leaves)

Hatach: Hurry the King waits!

(Lights off in Haman’s Apartment)
Scene III Revelation (Stage I- Queen’s Apartment)

Cast: King Ahasuerus, Queen Esther, Haman, Hatach, Mordecai, Dari, Harbonah, Scribe

Narrator: One great purpose of the writer of the Book of Esther is to show that he who lays a snare for his neighbor’s life is in grave danger of falling into a snare himself. Men often meet with the very evils they have sought to inflict upon others. xviii

(Esther seated)

(Lights on in the Queen’s apartment)

(King and Haman enter taking their usual position. King sits with Esther on the chaise, Haman on the seat)

Queen Esther: Welcome once again. It is my hope that our conversation will be to the health of the King and his loyal people.

(Dari enters and serves food and drink)

King Ahasuerus: What is your petition my beautiful and lovely Queen, even to half of my kingdom? (Throwing out his hands expansively) xix

Queen Esther: If I have found favor in thy sight, O King, and if it please the king… (Nervously) and if it please the king… xx

King Ahasuerus: (Passionately) What is troubling my Queen?

Queen Esther: (Pleading, but with dignity) If it please the king, spare my life and the lives of my people at my request. I and my people are to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish! If we had only been sold for slaves, I would have held my tongue. But we are to be murdered. xxi

Haman: (Nervously looks for a way of escape, and as the conversation goes on he tries to slip away.)

Queen Esther: Let my life be given me at my petition and my people at my request. xxii

King Ahasuerus: (Standing and angrily looking around) Who is he and where is he that dares presume to do this to my Queen and her people? xxiii

Esther: (Stands and points) The enemy...the adversary... is this wicked Haman. xxiv

King Ahasuerus: (Paces and angrily leaves the room for a moment.)

Haman: (Falls upon Esther) Spare me, I beg you, give me my life! (King returns with Hatach and Harbonah)

King Ahasuerus: (Loudly) What? Let go of her! Will you force the Queen before me in my own house? xxv Lieutenant! (Pointing at Haman) Take him away! (Harbonah takes his signet ring and gives it to the king, covers Haman’s face indicating that he will die, and takes hold of him to take him out.)

Hatach: (Peering out the window) Behold the gallows—50 cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai.

King Ahasuerus: Hang Haman and his sons on them!
Harbonah: Yes, my King. (They take Haman out)

King Ahasuerus: (To Hatach) Find Mordecai. Quickly, there is no time to lose.

Esther: O King, (falls at his feet, in tears) when I was very young my parents died and Mordecai raised me as his daughter. You must put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite and his decree against the Jews. How can I bear to see the destruction of my people and my kindred? (King holds out the golden scepter and Esther rises, stands before the king, and touches it.)

King Ahasuerus: (Touching her tenderly) Have no fear, my precious Queen.

(Hatach and Mordecai enter with the scribe)

King Ahasuerus: (To scribe) You must write a new decree and (Turning to Mordecai and giving him his Signet ring) Mordecai will dictate the new law.

Narrator: So they hanged Haman and his ten sons on the gallows that Haman prepared for Mordecai. Then was the King’s wrath pacified. A decree could not be changed, but a new decree was issued. Mordecai wrote a new law and sealed it with the king’s ring. The Jewish people could arm themselves to defend themselves and their property. The Jews slew seventy-five thousand men defending their property throughout the provinces, but took no spoil. Five hundred were slain in the palace. No man could withstand them for the fear of them fell upon all people and God was with them. The Jewish people rejoiced in their salvation.

Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel: a great crown of gold, and with raiment of fine linen and purple. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them. Mordecai became great in the house of the king and waxed greater and greater. Mordecai’s position was next unto King Ahasuerus and he was great among the Jews and accepted of the multitude because he looked after the wealth and prosperity of his people and spoke peace to all.

Esther allowed God to use her. Because of her faith in God and following the plan he had for her life, Esther altered the fate of her people. Esther was given earthly honor as Queen of all Media-Persia, but more importantly she was honored by God, for being used by God is the highest honor of all. Esther and Mordecai are buried and honored in a Mausoleum in Hamadan, Iran, Shushan. God can use you in a great way if you allow him to use you for such a time as this.

With the King and the Queen in the center all characters on stage to bow.
Decree: Taken from the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary

The great (Ahasuerus) writes these things to the governors of 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia, and to the officials that are subject to them. After I became lord over many nations, and had dominion over the whole world, without being lifted up with presumption of my authority, but carrying myself always with equity and mildness, I purposed to settle my subjects continually in a quiet life; and, by making my kingdom peaceable, and open for passage to the utmost coasts, to renew peace, which is desired by all men.

“Now when I asked my counselors how this might be brought to pass, Haman, that excelled in wisdom among us, and was approved for his constant good will and steadfast fidelity, and had the honor of the second place in the kingdom, declared unto us, that in all nations through-out the world there are scattered a certain malignant people, that had laws contrary to all nations, and continually set aside the commandments of kings, so that the union honorably intended by us, cannot be established.”

“Seeing then we understand that this nation is alone continually in opposition to all men, following by their laws an alien life, and evil-affected to our state, working all mischief they can, that our kingdom may not be firmly established: therefore have we commanded, that they that are indicated in writing unto you by Haman, who is ordained over the affairs, and is a second father unto us, shall all with their wives and children, be utterly destroyed by the sword of their enemies, without any mercy or pity, on the fourteenth day of the twelfth month Adar of this present year; so that they who of old and now also are malicious, may in one day with violence go down to Hades, and so ever hereafter cause our affairs to be well settled, and without trouble.” SDA 474
## Costumes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Costume Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narrator, Hadassah, Esther, Jewish maiden of Shushan</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadassah, Esther, Jewish maiden of Shushan, Queen of Media-Persia</td>
<td>Blue robe with gold trim, Linen robe with blue print wide sash, crown/round head piece, dark curly hair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Ahasuerus, Xerxes I, of Media-Persia</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vashti, Queen of Media-Persia</td>
<td>Blue robe with gold trim, Linen robe with blue print wide sash, crown/round head piece, dark curly hair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mordecai, Nephew of Abihail</td>
<td>Blue robe with gold trim, Linen robe with blue print wide sash, crown/round head piece, dark curly hair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatach, Kings Chamberlain</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haman, Son of Hammedatha the Agagite, One of the seven princes of Media-Persia</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeresh, Haman’s Wife</td>
<td>Blue robe with gold trim, Linen robe with blue print wide sash, crown/round head piece, dark curly hair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hegai-Keeper of Women</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shethar, One of the seven princes</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admantha, One of the seven princes</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsena, One of the seven princes</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memucan, One of the seven princes</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bigthan, Keeper of the Gate</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tereh, Keeper of the Gate</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scribe</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korrisa, Friend of Hadassah</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mya, Maid in waiting</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sashi, Maid in waiting</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dari, Maid in waiting</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tirzah, Maiden from Bagistana, Media</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ziahi, Maiden from Persepolis, Persis</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joellafan, Maiden from Thebes, Egypt</td>
<td>White dress and sash, light blue sari, purple sari, veil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To bring:

**Girls:** white or light colored sandals

**Guys:** black, tan, or brown sandals and a pair of shorts

---

1. Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, p. 458
2. Ibid, p. 460
3. Numbers 6: 25-27
4. 3 John 2
5. 1 Chronicles 16:34
6. Seventh-day Adventist Commentary, p. 472
7. Ibid, p. 479
viii Ibid, p. 473
ix Ibid, p. 457
x Esther 4:14
xi Ibid, 4:16
xii Ibid, 5:6
xiii Ibid, 5:4
xiv Ibid, 5:8
xv Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary  p. 479
xvi Esther 6:11
xvii Ibid, 6:13
xviii Seventh-day Adventist Commentary, p. 482
xix Esther 7:2
xx Ibid, 7:3
xxi Ibid, 7:3
xxii Ibid, 7:3
xxiii Ibid, 7:5
xxiv Ibid, 7:6
xxv Ibid, 7:8