

## **Esther's Request**

Esther 4 – 5

by Don Falkos

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Mordecai communicated with Queen Esther through a series of messages.

"The king has issued a decree calling for the extermination of the Jewish people. I know I have always encouraged you to keep your Jewish nationality a secret. But now you must go to the king and plead for your people."

"If I approach the king without being summoned I will be put to death unless the king holds out his gold scepter to me. But it's been thirty days since the king has called for me."

"Don't think for a moment you're safe in the palace. You'll die too. But who knows... maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this."

"Even though it's against the law, I will go to see the king. If I die, I die."

Esther and all the Jewish people fasted for three days. Then she went to see King Xerxes. He welcomed her and held out his gold scepter to her. Esther approached and touched the end of the scepter.

The king asked, "What do you wish, my queen?"

"Please come to a banquet I have prepared for you and Haman."

At Esther's banquet the king said, "Now tell me what you really want. Whatever it is, I'll give it to you."

Instead of stating her concern about the king's decree, Esther said, "Come tomorrow, just you and Haman, to another banquet. Then I'll answer your question."

Haman was pleased and proud as he left this private banquet with the king and queen. But when he passed by Mordecai at the palace gate, the man just sat there refusing to appropriately acknowledge his superior. Before the banquet tomorrow he intended to ask the king to execute Mordecai by impalement. Haman set up a stake for the purpose – a stake seventy-five feet tall.