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A Biographical Study of Mordecai

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Mordecai

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. The dedication of Mordecai
 - A. He was a Benjamite who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar (Esther 2:5-6).
 - B. He had raised up his cousin (or niece) named Esther (also called Hadassah) at the death of her parents (2:7).
 - C. When Esther became queen, he advised her not to reveal her nationality or background (2:10).
- II. The detection of Mordecai
 - A. He discovered and reported to Esther concerning a plot on the part of two royal gatekeepers to assassinate King Ahasuerus (2:21-22).
 - B. The rebels were quickly arrested and executed (2:23).
- III. The defiance of Mordecai—He refused to bow and pay honor to Haman, Persia's wicked and arrogant prime minister appointed by the king (3:2; 5:9).
- IV. The distress of Mordecai
 - A. Haman noted this refusal and plotted to kill not only Mordecai, but all the Jews in the entire kingdom (3:3-15).
 - B. Learning of this, Mordecai went into deep mourning (4:1).
- V. The direction of Mordecai—Mordecai informed Esther concerning Haman's death decree, and gave her the following advice (4:13-14):
 - A. Don't think you will escape the fate of your people simply because you live in the palace.
 - B. If you keep quiet, God will deliver the Jews from some other source, but you will die.
 - C. You have probably been brought to the kingdom for such a time as this.
- VI. The delight of Mordecai
 - A. At Esther's request, he gathered the Jewish leaders in Susa for a three-day fast as the queen prepared to approach (uninvited) her husband the king (4:15-17).
 - B. Shortly after this, in the marvelous providence of God, two totally unexpected events occurred.
 1. The king suddenly learned that Mordecai had once saved his life and determined to reward him (6:1-3).
 2. Haman was forced by the king to arrange an honor parade for the detested Mordecai (6:10-11).
- VII. The decree of Mordecai
 - A. Haman was eventually hanged upon the very gallows he had previously built for Mordecai (5:14; 7:9-10).
 - B. Following Haman's death, Mordecai was appointed by Esther over the wicked prime minister's estate (8:1-2).

- C. At Ahasuerus' command, Mordecai wrote out a new royal edict, permitting the Jews to defend themselves against their enemies (8:7-14).
- D. Mordecai then became very powerful in the kingdom (9:3-4).
- E. Following the victory over their enemies, the Jewish leaders received a letter from Mordecai commanding them to celebrate the newly established Feast of Purim (9:20-32).
- F. Mordecai was eventually placed in authority directly under the king himself (10:1-3).

STATISTICS

Father: Jair (2:5)

First mention: Esther 2:5

Final mention: Esther 10:3

Meaning of his name: "Dedicated to Mars"

Frequency of his name: Referred to 56 times

Biblical books mentioning him: One book (Esther)

Occupation: Prime minister (10:3)

Important fact about his life: He was Esther's cousin and prime minister of Persia (2:7; 10:3)