

**The Story's Setting – The Persians had conquered the Holy Land and \_\_\_\_\_ the best and brightest to Persia.**

**The King's Choice – His gracious \_\_\_\_\_ was to choose Esther and give her royal \_\_\_\_\_.**

### Esther 2

7 Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died. 8 When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many girls were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. 17 Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

**The Enemy's Intention – His devious desire is to \_\_\_\_\_, kill, and \_\_\_\_\_ God's people.**

### Esther 3

5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. 6 Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes. 8 Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom whose customs are different from those of all other people and who do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. 9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will put ten thousand talents of silver into the royal treasury for the men who carry out this business." 10 So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman, the enemy of the Jews. 11 "Keep the money," the king said to Haman, "and do with the people as you please." 13 Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and little children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

**The Queen's Dilemma – Esther was faced with the decision whether to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ or not.**

### Esther 4

8 [Mordecai, Esther's cousin and adopted father] urged her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. 11 [Esther replied] "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that he be put to death. The only exception to this is for the king to extend the gold scepter to him and spare his life. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king." 13 [Mordecai sent word back to Esther saying] "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" 15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

**The King's Grace – He extended to her the royal \_\_\_\_\_, indicating his acceptance and \_\_\_\_\_ toward her.**

### Esther 5

1 On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. 2 When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

### Hebrews 4:16

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

### Application:

- Do you realize that God has chosen You, set His affections upon you, and extended His marvelous grace to you? Have you?
- Do you continue to recognize that there is a very real enemy who is literally hell-bent upon destroying you and your family?
- Will you respond to God's grace today in humility, gratitude, and worship?