

# THE STORY

## FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

### The Queen of Beauty and Courage

Chapter 20 — August 30, 2015

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- I. The Plot Against the Jews
  - A. Takes place **during the exile** in Susa, the capital city of Persia
  - B. **Haman** convinces Xerxes to decree the extermination of the Jews
  - C. **Lots** (Purim) are cast to determine the day
- II. The Courageous Response
  - A. **Esther** is selected as the new Queen (Esther 2:12)
  - B. **Mordecai** convinces Esther to appeal to the king

*“For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” – Esther 4:14*

- III. Haman is Exposed
  - A. Xerxes **honors** Mordecai not Haman
  - B. Esther arranges a **private dinner** and exposes Haman's plan.
  - C. Xerxes decrees that the Jews can **defend** themselves
  - D. Mourning turns to **celebration**.

- IV. God is in Control

*The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.  
– Proverbs 16:33*

- A. God is always **working**
- B. We **trust** in His goodness

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. – Romans 8:28*

- C. **Faith** overcomes Fear

*Message based on materials provided by Oak Hills and Lutheran Church of Hope.*