

ESTHER 7-JOB 2

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

The book of Esther concludes with the triumph of the Jews. We see Esther be courageous and faithful as she approaches King Xerxes with two requests: to save her people and to reverse the evil plans of Hamaan. King Xerxes listens to Esther and issues a new **decree** that will protect the Jews. A decree is an official order from a legal authority. King Xerxes also honors Mordecai, and gives him all of the property that once belonged to Hamaan, as well as his signet ring. Together, Mordecai and Esther are able to share the news of the new decree with all of the land of Susa. Hamaan is killed, and the Jews now have the ability to protect themselves from their enemies! We see how excited and joyful the Jews are to be rescued, and we can join in on this celebration because we too are rescued by Jesus Christ!

We are starting the book of Job! Job is a “Wisdom Literature” book of the Bible, which means that we will learn practical lessons that will help us as we follow God. A theme in the book of Job is **suffering**. Suffering is when we experience pain, hardships, or difficulties. In Job, there are many characters who are important to the story and participate in **dialogue**, which is when characters talk back and forth to each other. As a matter of fact, dialogue is the structure of the book of Job! The Lord and **Satan** are talking about Job and his faith in God. Satan is God’s enemy who tries to trick people into turning away from God and to sin. The later chapters alternate between Job’s friends named Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, as they each try to give Job advice on how he should respond to the suffering he is experiencing.

God tells Satan that Job is a blameless man because “he fears God and stays away from evil.” Satan responds by telling God that Job is only a blameless man because he is rich and has God’s protection on his life. Satan asks God if he can test Job, and God permits this, as long as Satan does not take Job’s life. Job first loses his animals, his workers, and his children. Then we see Job also lose his own health. Job is devastated, yet although he is suffering, he does not curse God. Instead he still chooses to praise the Lord, and because of this, Job remains blameless. His friends show up, and they mourn with Job. As a friend, there is great power and love in an act as simple as being there with one another in hard times. Job’s friends do a great job of this! As we continue to read through Job, we will get to see how Job’s friends show up for Job in both right and wrong ways.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is always good, even when life is difficult!
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Queen Speaks Up • God's People Are Saved • Job Is Tested • Job Stays Faithful
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esther 8:16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "The Jews were filled with joy and gladness and were honored everywhere." • Job 1:8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "The Lord asked Satan, 'Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the Earth. He is blameless- a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil.'" • Job 1:21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "He said, 'I came naked from my mothers womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!'"
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decree <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ An official order from a legal authority • Suffering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Experiencing pain, hardships, or difficulties • Dialogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A conversation between two or more characters • Satan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ God's enemy who tries to trick people into turning away from God and sinning

Reflection Questions

1.	Esther was appointed as the queen, and she used her position for the good of God's people! What are some positions you have? How can you use these positions for God's kingdom?
2.	Why do you think God let Satan test Job? Have you experienced hard things in your life? How did you feel and respond?

