

Home Readings

[Furnished by the International Bible Reading Association]

- M. Haman's wicked decree. Esth. 3. 1-13.
T. Great sorrow. Esth. 4. 1-9.
W. Esther Pleading for Her People. Esth. 4. 10 to 5. 3.

New Canadian Hymnal, No. 287.

Safely through another week,
God has brought us on our way;
Let us now a blessing seek.

New Canadian Hymnal, No. 438.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on his gentle breast,
There by his love o'ershadowed.

The Lesson Hymns

- Th. The plot frustrated. Esth. 7. 1-10.
F. The decree revoked. Esth. 8. 1-8.
S. Joy and gladness. Esth. 8. 9-17.
S. Pride and destruction. Prov. 10. 5-19.

Time.—Perhaps about B. C. 475. **Place.**—Shushan (Susa), a capital city of the Persian empire.

New Canadian Hymnal, No. 131.

Saviour! thy dying love
Thou gavest me,
Nor should I aught withhold.

Questions for Senior Scholars

1. *Faith's Message* (v. 10-14).—To whom did Esther send a message? Of what law of the palace did she remind Mordecai? What exception was there to this law? Why did Esther hesitate to enter the palace? What message of rebuke did Mordecai send to the queen? What would follow her refusal to venture into the presence of the king? What question did Mordecai ask? Wherein does Esther's attitude resemble that of a hesitant penitent?

2. *Faith's Resolution* (v. 15-17).—What request did Esther make of Mordecai? What was her resolve? What attention did Mordecai

pay to her request? In what is Esther an example to the seeking sinner?

3. *Faith's Triumph* (v. 1-3).—How long did Esther fast? Whose presence did she seek? What preparation did she make? Where did she find the king? What sign of favor did the king show her? What did Esther venture to do? What was the king's question? What was the king's promise? What other king made a like promise? (Mark 6. 22.) What is the GOLDEN TEXT? What was the result of Esther's heroism? In what is Esther's triumph a symbol of the Christian's triumph?

Questions for Intermediate Scholars

1. *The Queen and Her Mission* (v. 10-17).—What plot had Haman laid against the Jews? Who had told Esther about it? What had Mordecai asked Esther to do? What was the law concerning entering into the presence of the king? How was Esther related to Mordecai? Was her life in danger through the plot of Haman? What hope had Mordecai for his people? What did Mordecai say which must

have determined the course of Esther more than anything else? What answer did she give to Mordecai's message? How long did the people fast and pray?

2. *A Great and Generous King* (v. 1-3).—How did Esther appear before the king? How did the king greet her? What sign did he give that she was welcome? What did the king promise to give her?

Questions for Younger Scholars

Who was Queen Esther? *A beautiful Jewess.* By whom had she been brought up? What was the name of the king of Persia? Who was his prime minister? What kind of a man was Haman? *A selfish, wicked man.* What did he lay a plot to do? *To have all the Jews in his country killed.* Why did he do this? *Because Mordecai would not bow down to him*

and honor him. What did Mordecai beg Esther to do? Why was it not safe for her to go to the king? What did Mordecai tell her? What did Esther ask all the Jews to do? What did she and her maidens do? What does this show? When she came to the king what did he hold out to her? What did he say?

The Lesson Analysis

1. *The Trial of Faith* (Esth. 3. 5 to 4. 9). *Introductory.*

(a) The Jews in exile were prospering: Mordecai, a Jew, was a courtier of King Ahasuerus, and Esther, his niece and adopted daughter, had been made queen. (b) Haman, the king's favorite, hated Mordecai because

Mordecai showed contempt for him. (c) He man, in revenge, determined to destroy not only Mordecai, but the entire Jewish nation. (d) By maligning the Jews to the king, and by bribery, Haman obtained a decree for their extermination. (e) Their doom was fixed for the thirteenth day of the twelfth month. (f)

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465 B. C.