

The Great Castle Caper Episode 4: The Hatching of The Castle Gate Plan

I hope you enjoy reading along with this story!



Whenever you see a green tick like this one, you'll need to think hard about what you are hearing because you'll be learning something amazing about God!

So here we go!

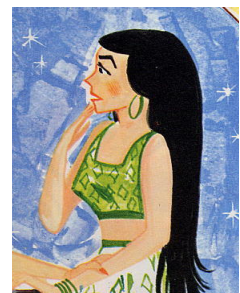


So Mordecai the Jew saved king Xerxes from a plot to kill him and got his name written down in the king's diary to remind him who saved him.

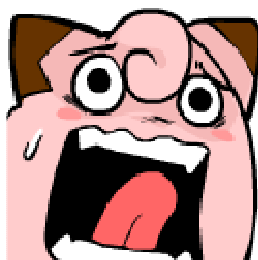


But Haman the Pain-man has hatched a terrible plot to kill Mordecai and all the other Jews in the kingdom because Mordecai won't bow down to Haman because Mordecai only bows to God.

But Xerxes doesn't know that if he agrees to killing all the Jews then his new Queen Esther will also have to be killed because she's secretly a Jew too.



And that's what you missed on
BibleStoryZone!



Everywhere in the kingdom, as the Jewish people found out about the new law there was crying and wailing and people laying about wearing sackcloths and covering themselves in ashes.



When Mordecai found out about the new law, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes and went out into the city wailing loudly.

But he only went as far as his usual gate into the palace-castle, called the King's Gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to go through it.

But one of Esther's maids saw him and went to tell Esther.



"Thank you so much for telling me about my Uncle. Did you take him some proper clothes to put on instead of those awful sackcloths, like I asked you to?"

"Yes your Highness, but he won't take them. He just keeps wailing."

"Alright, go and fetch Hathach for me please? I'll send him out to the gate to see what Mordecai is so upset about."



The maid scurried out of the queen's bedroom to fetch Hathach who quickly came back.

"Hathach, please will you go and talk with my uncle Mordecai out by the King's Gate. Please try to find out why he is so upset."

"Oh, isn't that lovely? Yes your majesty, at once."



So Hathach went out to Mordecai in front of the King's Gate, and Mordecai told him everything, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal bank for whoever destroyed the Jews.

"And look, over here on the wall, here's a copy of the new law Haman has made up. There are copies like this all



over Susa and all over the kingdom!”

“Take this one with you and show it to the Queen to help explain what’s going on. But this is the most important thing; you must ask the Queen to go in and see the King and beg for mercy for her people.”

Hathach went and told Esther everything Mordecai had said and she sent him back with another message.



“Mordecai, the Queen has commanded me to remind you that for anybody who goes into the King’s throne room without an invitation, well, the king has one law: that they be killed straight away!”

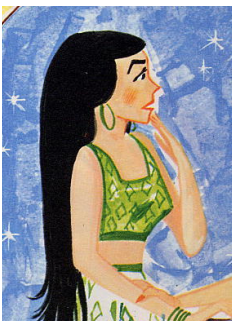
“The only exception to this is if the King decides to stretch out the gold, Royal Scepter to them and spare their life. Oh, isn’t that lovely?”

“But we all know about how much the King likes having people’s heads chopped off don’t we!? She can’t just go in there without an invitation and it’s a month since he last did that! Oh, what a shame!”



Mordecai listened to what Esther had said and then sent back his own message through Hathach, which he went and told Esther.

“Your majesty, your uncle sends you this message; ‘Don’t think that because you are the queen you will escape this new law.’ Oh no!



‘If you stay quiet God will no doubt save us another way, but you and your father’s family will die before then.’ Oh, what a shame!



‘And who knows, perhaps the reason you became the Queen was because God wanted you to be in that royal position for such a time as this?’ Wouldn’t that be lovely?”

Esther listened to the message. It seemed that Mordecai had come up with a

plan, right there in the palace-castle gate! She decided to go for it and sent Mordecai one last message.



“Mordecai, the Queen has one last message for you - oh.

‘Go and gather together all the Jews who live in Susa, and don’t eat or drink for three days, night or day.’ Oh, you’re gonna be so hungry.

‘When you have done this, she will go in to the king, even though it is against the law. And if she dies, she dies!’ Oh, what a shame!”



Let’s take a minute to ask,
‘What Can We Learn From This Story?’

Mordecai and Esther had come up with a plan to save all the Jewish people from Haman.

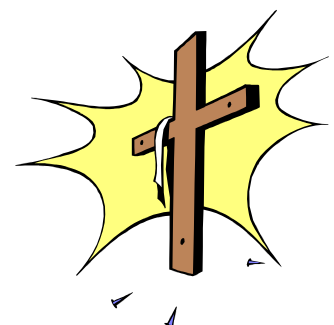


And just like Mordecai and Esther, God and Jesus had a plan to save us too, not from Haman, but from Sin!

But what is Sin? Sin is a disease we are all born with which makes us God’s enemy. And the only way we can become God’s friend again is if we have our sin cured, or another way of putting it, forgiven.



Esther knew it might cost her her life to save her people, but Jesus knew it would cost him his to save us from our Sin!



But then, he was willing to do it because he loves us so much and wanted to deal with our Sin.



Three days had passed.

Mordecai and the other Jews living in Susa had not eaten or drunk anything for three whole days – just spending their time asking God to save them somehow through Queen Esther.



Esther put on her royal robes and stood inside the palace-castle, right in front of the huge closed doors leading into the king's throne room.

Inside the king was sitting on his royal throne, facing the doors...



Will Esther dare to open the doors and go into the King?

And if she does, will the King have her killed or hold out the gold scepter to save her?

And what if Mordecai was right all along about God saving the Jews another way?

Would that mean if she does open the doors, Esther's bravery is all for nothing?

To find out, come back next time to:

The Great Castle Caper

Episode 5:

Hideous Haman The Horrible