

Honor The Culture of The Kingdom: Honoring The Heroes of Our Faith!

*2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

Part of understanding the culture of The Kingdom is learning about the amazing people that influenced The Kingdom through studying the scriptures.

What makes us **one** with Israel and the Jewish people is **our faith**, not our skin color or country of origin—but our faith in The One True God!

In the U.S. we learn about a broad range of people from George Washington, Jackie Robison, Elvis Presley to Rodney King.

How the lives of these individuals impacted the culture.

Like I said Wednesday night, great athletes' study and learn from the greats before them.

Likewise, great actors and entertainers learn from the greats before them, so do businessmen, scientists and inventors—they all intentionally learn from those who went before them.

We celebrate the greats of the past, telling and retelling their stories over and over again hoping to continue inspiring generation after generation!

It's the same with The Kingdom of God, we must study and celebrate the lives of great men and women of faith, to continue inspiring us and the generations to come!

KJV Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

We can learn from the faith of those who lived before us, how they faced their challenges and got the victory can give us hope and comfort in tuff times!

- This weekend the movie **captain marvel** debuted, they made it a big deal that a woman would play the part of this powerful superhero.

Hoping to inspire millions of women and little girls all over the world! That's fine!

But for the Faith Community, we already have great heroines (female heroes) that can inspire and encourage women and men alike.

Heroines like **Esther**, and this happens to be the season she used her faith did amazing things that changed the world.

Captain Marvel is fictitious, she's make-believe, she's not a real person!

Esther, **however**, is **REAL**, and **her faith, hope and courage are very real!**

I believe we lose something valuable if we fail to honor the great faith of the people who came before us!

GWN Hebrews 12:1 Since we are surrounded by so many examples of faith, we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially sin that distracts us. We must run the race that lies ahead of us and never give up.

What Esther did was so great, so important a national holiday was created in her honor!

That holiday is called **Purim** (poor-ream)! **Purim** means “lots” it’s the Jewish festival celebrating their deliverance from **Haman**.

During the reign of Xerxes of Persia **Haman** (second in command) wanted to destroy **all of Israel** (The Kingdom of God) on earth at that time, because he hated **Mordecai** the man who raised **Esther**.

Because he was a superstitious man Haman threw dice or cast lots, which were small pebbles to decide what day to massacre all the Jews.

❖ **Purim is about the **power of small things!****

It’s about how God takes the small things, foolish things and does great things with them!

ESV 1 Corinthians 1:25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

Purim is the season the weak say they are the strong and the poor say I am rich!

Psalm 35:10 All my bones shall say, "O LORD, who is like you, delivering the weak from him who is too strong for him, the poor and needy from him who robs him?"

Israel was a small weak nation taken captive by the mighty **Persian Empire!**

Mordecai was a faithful Jew who stood against an idolatrous government and one of its most powerful people **Haman**.

Esther a foreigner, a faithful woman, who by herself influences the king of Persia and rescues a nation from destruction!

Israel, Mordecai and Esther were all pebbles compared to Persia, Haman & a king!

Three small seemingly insignificant things, (like pebbles) have a deep and profound affect on very large things.

Can I prophecy to you, this is the season of **small things** having a great impact on **very large things**.

This is the season where **small insignificant things** are going to change the outcome of very big things!

This is the season where people are going to use their faith to change things that seem impossible!

If you feel small, weak and insignificant, this is your time, this is your season!

❖ **Purim** is all about celebrating the power of small things!

About celebrating small things doing the impossible!

Purim is all about something impossible happening because somebody ignored the odds and used their faith!

Haman threw pebbles on the ground and determined that **Mordecai** would be hanged on a gallows Haman had built especially for **Mordecai** and all The Jews would perish.

Because the king of Persia swore to give **Haman** anything he asked for and the word of a king cannot be changed.

The royal commandment can never be altered according to the laws of Medes and Persians (**Est 1:19**)

It was impossible for Mordecais, Esther or Israel to be saved from destruction!

^{KJV} Ecclesiastes 8:4 Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?

Haman asked for the Jews to be destroyed, not knowing **Esther** was a Jew.

When Morcedai asked Esther to go to the king about this, it was at great risk, but her faith prevailed, and the king found out about the lies and schemes of **Haman**.

The gallows **Haman** built for **Mordecai** to hang on, he was hung on; the plans he made for Israel's destruction happened to his family and cohorts.

❖ **Purim** is also a season of **Divine Reversals!**

A time when God flips the script on our enemies! What they planned for us will happen to them!

*NIV **Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*