

Esther 1-10 - The Star Queen

The book of Esther tells a fascinating story full of intrigue: Haman, the villain and enemy of the Jews, *versus* Mordecai and Esther, the Jewish hero and heroine. As you read **Esther 1:1-10:3** circle the letter of the correct ending for each sentence.

1. When King Ahasuerus (also known as Xerxes) held a banquet for his officials
 - a. Queen Vashti danced in front of all the men.
 - b. Queen Vashti refused even to appear at the banquet.
 - c. Queen Vashti was too ugly to be invited to the banquet.

2. The wise men advised King Ahasuerus to
 - a. reward Queen Vashti with jewels, lands, and servants.
 - b. kill Queen Vashti, as a punishment for disobeying him.
 - c. get a new queen, as a warning to other wives in the land.

3. Mordecai asked his beautiful cousin Esther to
 - a. join the king's harem of concubines.
 - b. tell King Ahasuerus that she was a Jewess.
 - c. refuse to enter the king's beauty contest.

4. After a year of special preparations
 - a. Esther was chosen to be Ahasuerus' new queen.
 - b. Esther insisted on worshiping her own God.
 - c. Esther refused the royal beauty treatment.

5. Later, Haman persuaded King Ahasuerus to have the Jews killed
 - a. because he wanted Queen Esther to be his wife.
 - b. because he was angry at Mordecai for not honoring him.
 - c. because his ancestors had been humiliated by the Jews.

6. When Mordecai asked Esther to get the king to change his mind
 - a. she invited King Ahasuerus and Haman to a banquet.
 - b. she refused to fast and pray.
 - c. she immediately asked the king to demote Haman.

7. When Haman was ready to have Mordecai hanged
 - a. Mordecai went into hiding for a month.
 - b. the king made Haman honor Mordecai because he had saved him from an assassination plot.
 - c. the gallows broke.

8. After Esther told Xerxes who had plotted her people's death
 - a. Haman went into hiding for a month.
 - b. Haman tried to rape the queen.
 - c. Haman was hanged on his own gallows.

9. Esther asked the king to rescue her people
 - a. so he allowed the Jews to flee to their homeland.
 - b. so he canceled his first order to have the Jews killed.
 - c. so he let Mordecai issue a decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves.

10. On the thirteenth day of the month Adar
 - a. hundreds of Jews were robbed and killed.
 - b. the Jews looted their enemies' treasures.
 - c. the Jews killed thousands of their enemies.

11. Haman's ten sons
 - a. inherited their father's estate.
 - b. were killed and hanged on their father's gallows.
 - c. asked Queen Esther to forgive them.

12. The annual Feast of Purim
 - a. celebrates the Jews' victory with parties and gift-giving.
 - b. is a quiet time of fasting and prayer for rescue.
 - c. is not observed anymore.

13. If you have circled the correct answers, you have noticed two unusual things about this story:

_____ is not mentioned anywhere in the entire book!

Also, the hero and heroine are not very _____.

14. The Greek version of the book of Esther in the Apocrypha tries to overcome these "shortcomings" by adding prayers and messages from God. Do you like this revised version? Why, or why not?

15. By the way, what does the name "Esther" mean? _____

16. And what does the word "Purim" mean? _____