

Esther 10 - Ahasuerus' Tax Levied; The Greatness of Mordecai

II. Deliverance of the Jews (Esther 6:1—10:3)

- (6) Mordecai's elevation (10:1-3)
 - (A) Powerful Ahasuerus makes Mordecai's second-in-command on account of the latter's greatness as recorded in the Book of Chronicles (10:1-3a)
 - (B) Mordecai is respected among the Jews for his on-going work on their behalf (10:3b)

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- (6) Mordecai's elevation (10:1-3)
 - (A) Powerful Ahasuerus makes Mordecai's second-in-command on account of the latter's greatness as recorded in the Book of Chronicles (10:1-3a)

- 1 Now King Ahasuerus imposed a tax on the land and the coastlands of the sea.
- 1 Now King Ahasuerus laid a tribute on the land and on the coastlands of the sea.
- 1 King Ahasuerus imposed tribute on the land and on the islands of the sea.
- 1 And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea.
 - Not sure why this tax is mentioned here...could be that Mordecai had something to do with it, or perhaps this tax reflected God's blessing on Ahasuerus for preserving the Jews
 - Instead of benefitting from the plunder that Haman promised for the Jews' extermination, Ahasuerus had to rely on taxation
 - Residents of Persia were always exempted from taxation, but the inhabitants of the outlying areas of the empire paid huge amounts in tax to the king
- 2 And every accomplishment of his authority and power, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai with which the king honored him, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia?
- 2 And all the accomplishments of his authority and strength, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia?
- 2 Now as to all the powerful and great deeds of Ahasuerus, along with an exact statement about the high position of Mordecai to which the king promoted him, these things are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia, are they not?

2 And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?

- These documents recorded the historicity of the events recorded in Esther, but they are not available to us today

(B) Mordecai is respected among the Jews for his on-going work on their behalf
(10:3b)

3 For Mordecai the Jew was second *only* to King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews and in favor with his many kinsmen, one who sought the good of his people and one who spoke for the welfare of his entire nation.

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3 Indeed, Mordecai the Jew was second in authority only to King Ahasuerus and was a powerful official among the Jewish people. Mordecai was accepted favorably by his many kinsmen, and he sought the good of his countrymen and spoke out for the welfare of all his people.

3 For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.

- Mordecai was one of several biblical characters whom God providentially elevated to high government office (Cf. Joseph, Daniel, Nehemiah). But the writer of Esther gave Ahasuerus the credit for advancing Mordecai, not God.