

# Mordecai: A Father by Choice

Today's story is about a man named Mordecai. Mordecai had a cousin named Esther, who he had brought up as his own daughter because she was an orphan. An orphan means you don't have a father nor mother. We don't know if Mordecai had any children of his own, but he is a special father in the Bible because he had adopted Esther as his own daughter. Mordecai chose to be Esther's father because he was a Godly man. She needed him, and he loved and cared for Esther as his own daughter. Mordecai raised his daughter to take a stand at the right time, to do the right thing. Because of her beauty, Esther becomes Queen of Persia. Mordecai wisely advises her to conceal her heritage from the king she was marrying because he hated Jews. When Mordecai refuses to bow down to the king's officer, Haman, he places himself in jeopardy because of his convictions. He would bow before no one other than Jehovah. As a result, Haman conspires to destroy not only Mordecai, but all the Jews as well. Mordecai urges Esther to appeal to the king on behalf of their people, reminding her that we each have a role to play for God's will and to be courageous. Esther must have trusted her father Mordecai greatly, for she chooses to stand before the king for her people. The character and actions of Esther reveal how much she must have learned from observing her father's character. Eventually, Mordecai and the Jewish nation are saved and Haman is executed. Usually, when we study the story of Esther, we see her strength and devotion to her people. But God used someone else in this story to accomplish his purpose. God used a faithful father—a father who impressed a young daughter to have courage in her convictions. At the right time, Esther did the right thing, because she had been raised by a Godly father. A father who knew that the decisions he would make as his daughter grew would help her learn to make Godly decisions later in life. Esther chose to obey the words of her adopted father and to do what was right even if it meant risking her life. As a result she saved an entire generation of the people of God. Mordecai is a champion of fathers who lead their daughters and sons to do what is right through God's will even when it's not the easy thing to do. We are thankful for men who embrace a fathering role for children who need love and Godly guidance.

Video @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL1tpSF4C8>

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- 1) Who was Mordecai's cousin? Esther
- 2) Why did Mordecai take care of Esther? She was an orphan
- 3) Why did he choose to take care of her? Because he was a Godly man
- 4) Esther was chosen by the king to do what? Become the queen
- 5) Who did the king hate? Jews
- 6) Why was that bad for Esther and Mordecai? Because they were Jews
- 7) What did Mordecai refuse to do? Bow down to an other gods other than the heavenly God
- 8) What did Haman want to do to Mordecai? Kill him
- 9) What did Esther do? Convinced the king not to kill the Jews
- 10) What had Mordecai taught Esther? To trust and love the one true God

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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We are thankful for men who embrace a fathering role for children who need love and Godly guidance. Mordecai gives his adopted daughter Esther words of wisdom and courage to do what's right. He had adopted her as his own daughter. Esther 2:7

