

Esther

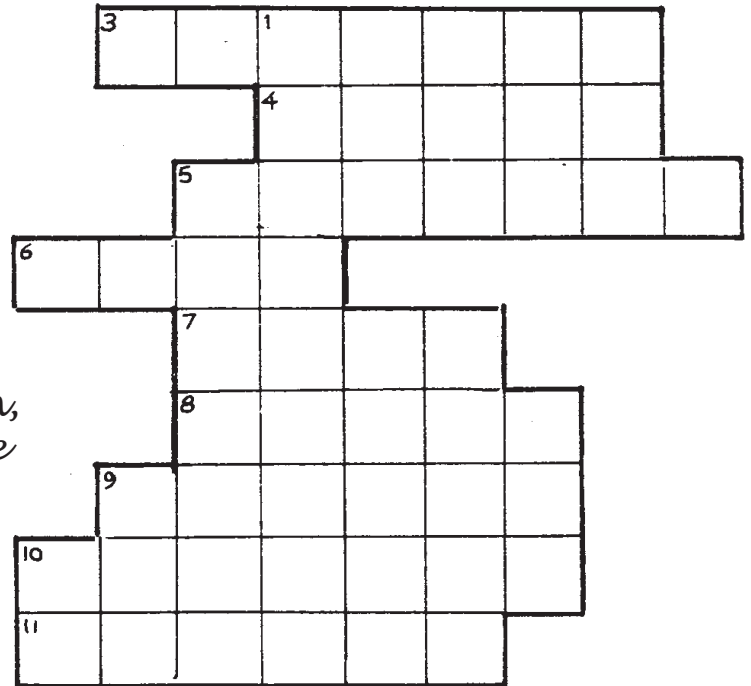
You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow-citizens with God's people and members of God's household.

Ephesians 2:19

Readings this week:

- S Esther 1
- M Esther 2
- T Esther 3 & 4
- W Esther 5
- Th Esther 6
- F Esther 7
- S Esther 8

Fill in the missing words to find the clues to complete the crossword.



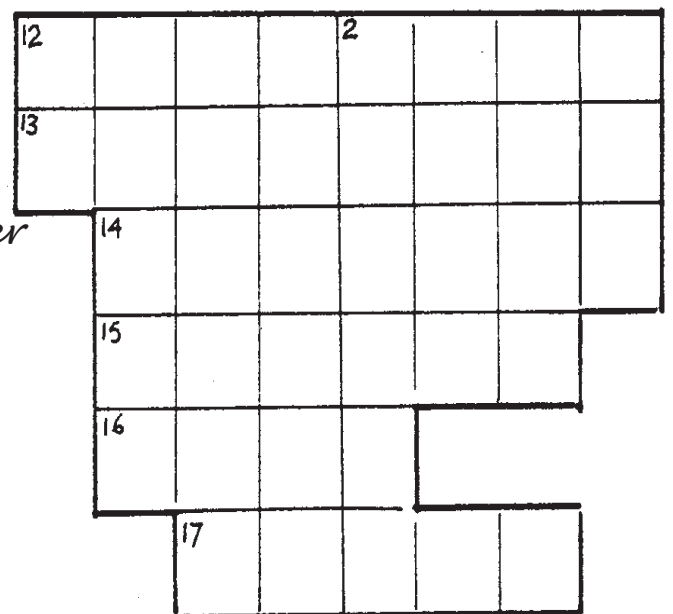
The king of (11 across) and (8 across) held a banquet in his palace. The king's name was (1 down) or (9 across). His queen, (15 across), refused to come to the king and so was deposed.

Beautiful girls were brought to the palace in (7 across). One of the girls was (2 down) whose other names was (13 across).

Her cousin, who had brought her up, was called (12 across).

They were (6 across) in exile.

Mordecai refused to bow down to (4 across), the (3 across); who then (14 across) to kill all the Jews. Esther went to the king; she risked her (16 across). The king granted esther her (10 across). Haman was then hanged on the (5 across) he had built for Mordecai. The Jews celebrate being saved from the destruction planned by Haman at the feast of (17 across).



Esther seemed to be an unimportant person. Note down the ways in which she was a nobody.

Do you think you are important to God?

In what way did she become an important person?

How does God view people?

How do you think we should view ourselves?



This sketch is of a relief carving archaeologists have found. It shows Ahasuerus (Xerxes) as Crown Prince, standing behind his father Darius 1 who was the king of Persia. It is dated 521-486 BC and is 2.5 metres high.

Digging Deeper

Haman was the son of Hammedatha but who was he descended from? Esther 3:1

So what nationality was he? 1 Samuel 15:2,20

When do we first hear of them having anything to do with God's people and what were they doing? Genesis 14:7

What happened when The Israelites were in the desert?

Exodus 17:8-16 - note especially what God said in verse 14 and Moses said in verse 16.

What does Moses remind them at the end of the wilderness journey? Deuteronomy 25:17-19

Who also had problems with them? Judges 6:3

What did Saul fail to do? 1 Samuel 15:1-3,7-11 (1 Chronicles 4:42-43)

What nation is mentioned in Psalm 83:7-8 to make you think they were still around some time later.

There may be another reason for Mordecai to remember what God had said. Esther 2:5, 1 Samuel 9:1-2 (Think of his tribe)

Pray for help to get your attitude towards the most important things in your life right.