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MAHDERE-SEBEHAT LEDETA LEMARIAM
ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX
TEWAHEDO CHURCH



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In the name of the
Father, and the Son, and
the Holy Spirit, one God.
Amen.



Begin with the Lord's prayer

Our Lord and Savior, our King and God,
we thank you for gathering us here to stand
before you to call on your Holy Name.

Heavenly Father, teach us to trust You in
everything we do. Our God open our eyes,
ears, hearts and minds that we may hear Your
Word, keep it in our hearts and tell our friends
about your glory and honor.

Bless all the children and keep them safe.
Hear us when we humbly and thankfully pray
to you.

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from the evil one
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the
Glory. Forever, Amen.



O our Lady, as St. Gabriel greeted you, “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.” True Virgin in conscience as well as body, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Holy Mary, the God-bearer, pray that your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, may forgive us our sins. Amen.



Say The Jesus Prayer 3 times
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.



MEMORY VERSE

**Can anyone tell me
last week's
memory verse???**

Recite Last week's memory verse

“I will fear no evil; for you are with me.”

Psalm 23:4





Review



1. Why did the other princes in the kingdom hate Daniel?
 - a) Because Daniel was richer than they were.
 - b) Because King Darius had given him the place of authority over all the other princes.
2. Spying on Daniel helped the princes find something wrong in his life.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
3. The jealous princes thought of a plan that would trick Daniel into disobeying the king.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.



Review



4. This plan resulted in a law that said...
 - a) no one in the kingdom could ask for anything from anyone except from the king.
 - b) everyone had to worship their own gods on Saturdays.
5. How did Daniel break the law?
 - a) He ate a forbidden food.
 - b) He prayed to God asking for guidance and blessing.
6. What was the penalty for anyone who broke this new law?
 - a) They would be thrown into a den of lions.
 - b) They would be put in prison for ten years.






Review



7. King Darius did not like Daniel and was happy to see him punished.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
8. Daniel was thrown into the den of lions because he broke the law.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
9. The hungry lions killed Daniel.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.
10. The king signed another law commanding everyone to fear the living God, the God of Daniel.
 - a) True.
 - b) False.

Class Covenant

**I will keep my  on my teacher,
my  in control,
my s on God's Word;
knowing God is my goal.**

Esther



December 15, 2013

Memorize today's Verse

“Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it.”

Luke 11:28



**Practice this verse
again during the
week.**

ESTHER, THE JEWESS, was only a little girl when she went to live in the home of her cousin, Mordecai. Her new home was in the great city of Shushan, where the King of Persia lived. Her cousin, Mordecai, had an office in the household of the king. He was very kind to Esther, and loved her as his own child.



After Esther grew up to be a young woman the King of Persia made a great feast in his palace. He invited all the nobles and rulers of his kingdom to come to the palace and share in his entertainment. Perhaps Mordecai was there, too.

On the last day of the feast, which continued for a whole week, the King wished to see his beautiful wife, the Queen named Vashti. He wished that all the people attending his feast might see how beautiful she was. So he sent some of his servants to bring her into his part of the royal palace, where all the guest could see her beauty.

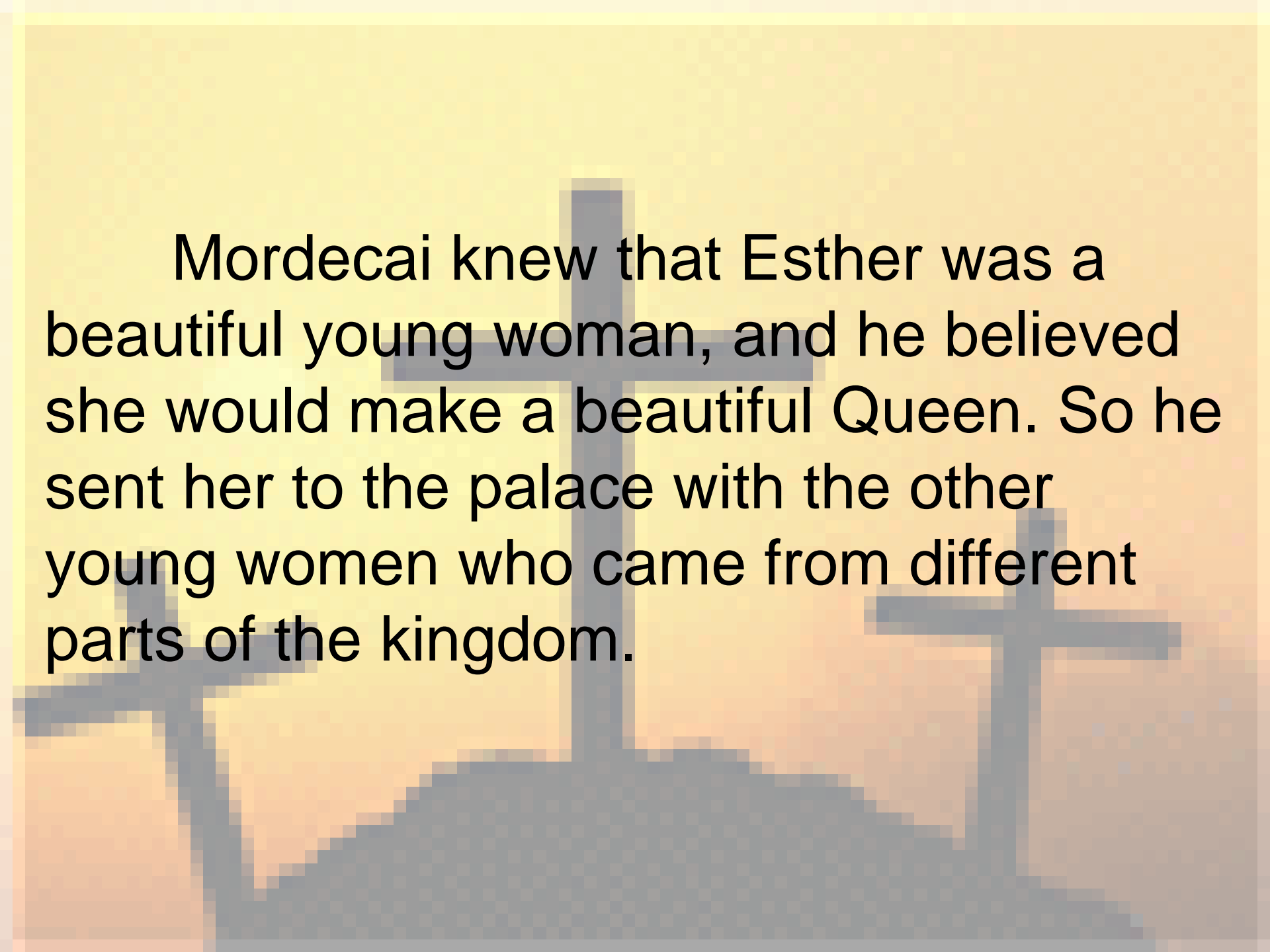


But Vashti, the Queen, refused to appear in the presence of all the men of Shushan. And she told the King's servants that she would not come. She believed that the King's request was unwise because it was contrary to the customs of her people.

King Ahasuerus was very angry when the servants returned alone and told him that Vashti would not come with them. He called his wise men and asked what should be done with Vashti, the Queen, who had dared to disobey him.

And one of the wise men said, "The Queen has done wrong, not only to you, O King, but also to the princes and to all the people, therefore let her be Queen no longer, but choose another who is better than she to take her place."

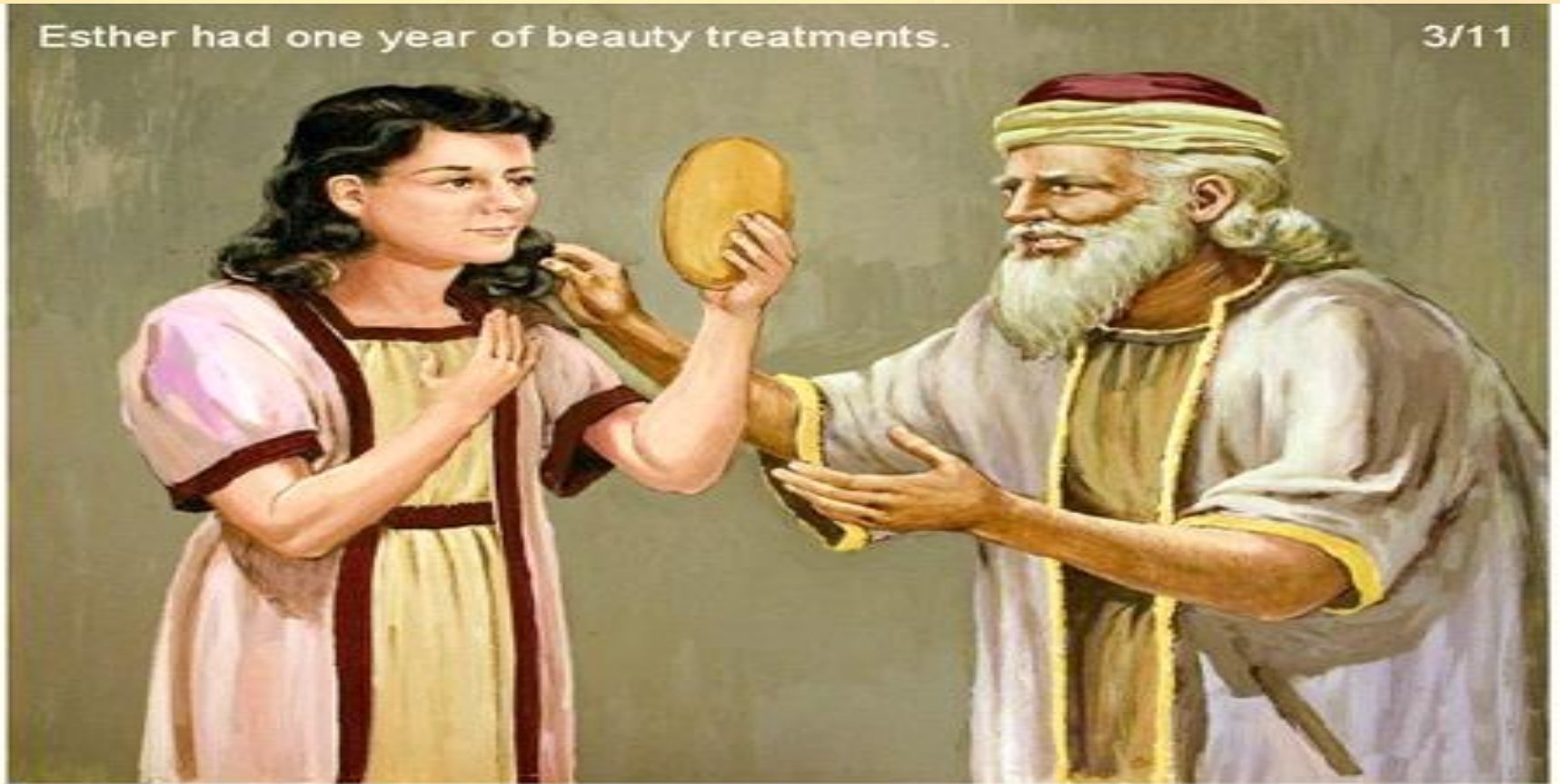
So the King sent commands through all his kingdom that the most beautiful young women should be brought to his palace, where he might choose among them the one who would please him best. This one he would make Queen instead of Vashti.

The background of the slide features a soft, warm sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, while the water below is a darker, muted blue-grey. A large, faint silhouette of a cross is centered in the background, spanning most of the width and height of the image. The text is overlaid on this background, positioned in the upper half.

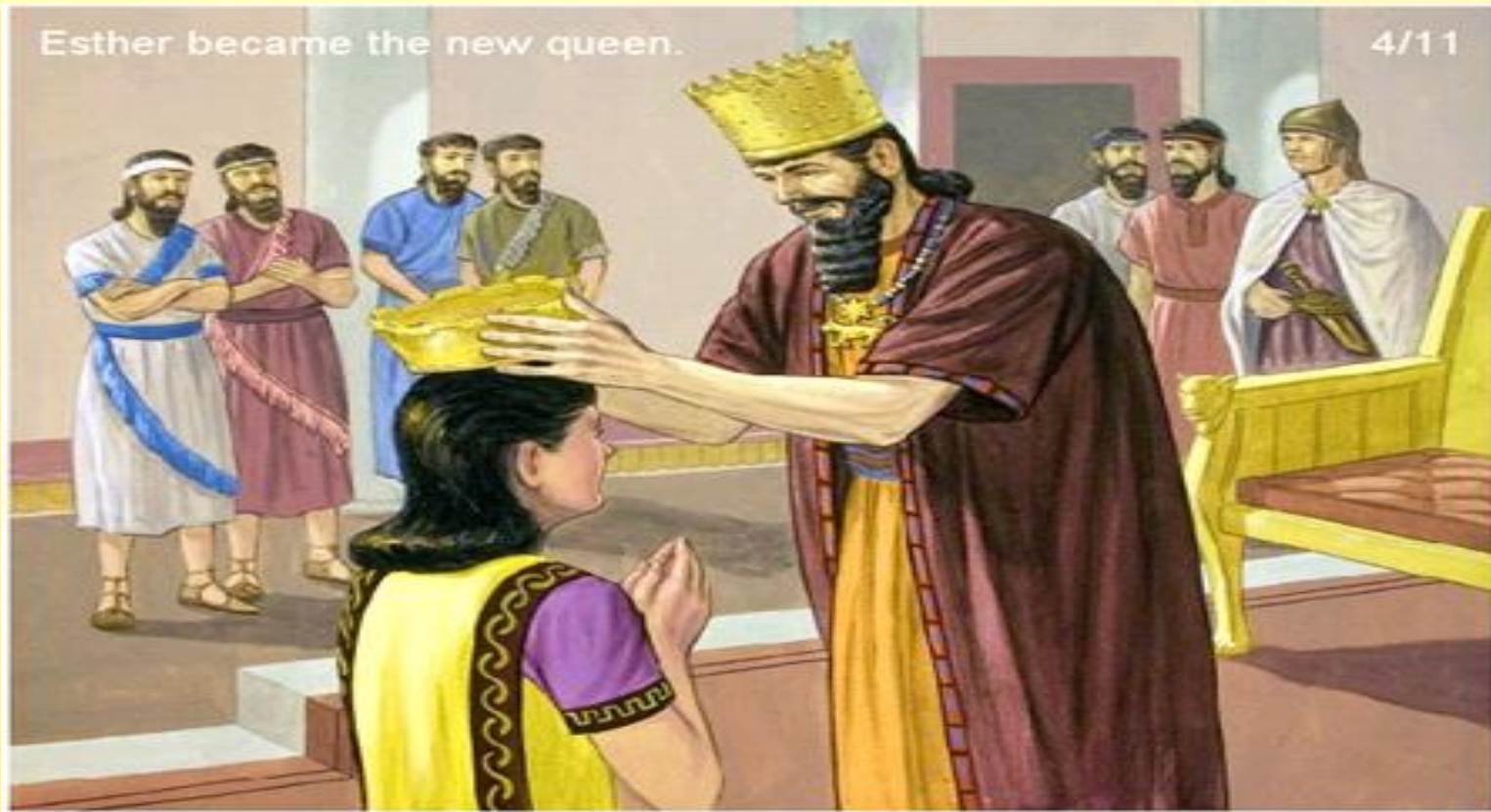
Mordecai knew that Esther was a beautiful young woman, and he believed she would make a beautiful Queen. So he sent her to the palace with the other young women who came from different parts of the kingdom.

Esther had one year of beauty treatments.

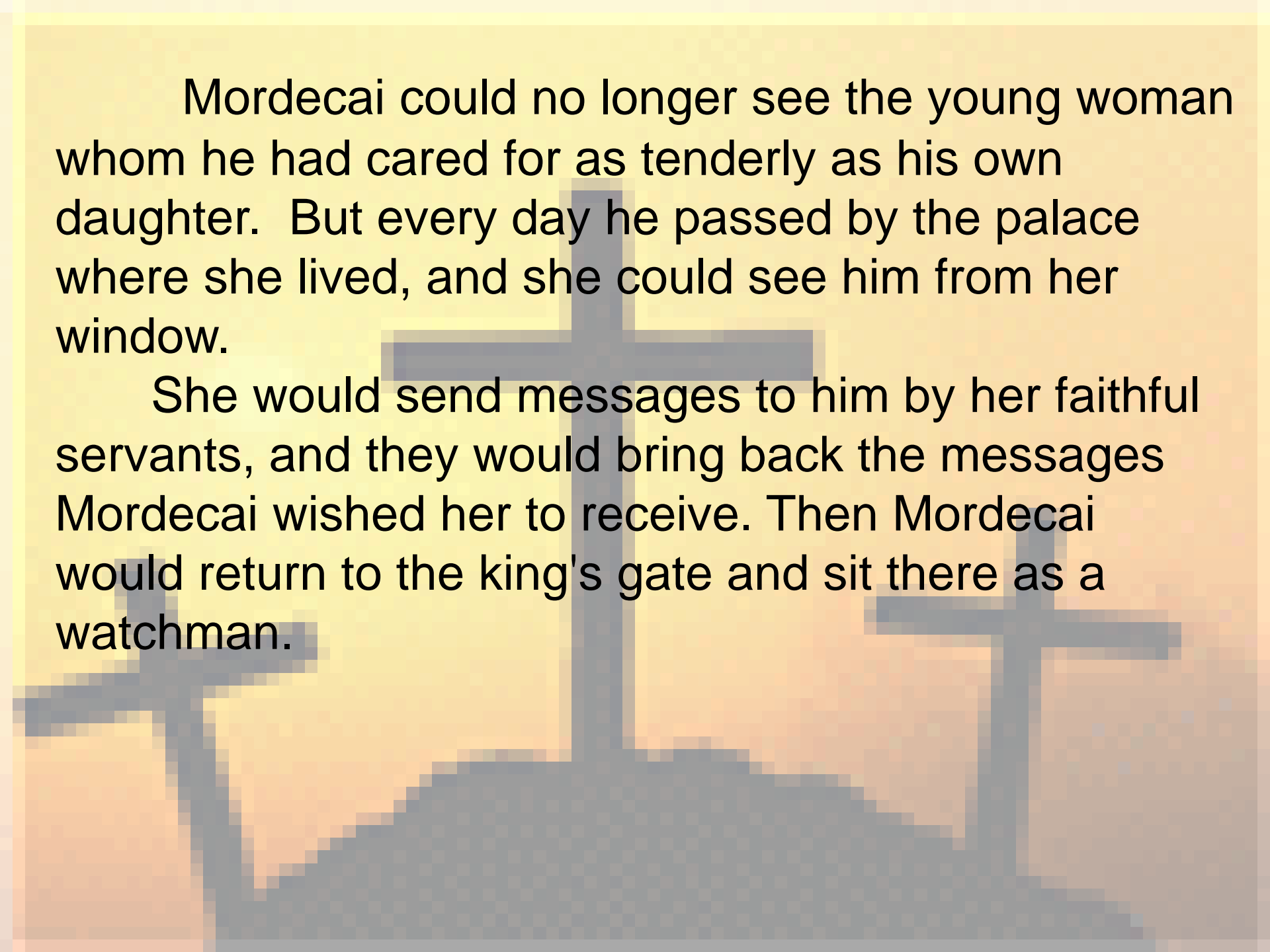
3/11



And there she was taught the manners of the courtlife, so she would know how to please the King. But Mordecai told her not to let the fact become known that her people were the Jews.



After living in the palace for some time, Esther was brought before the King; and she pleased him so much that he chose her at once to become the Queen. He placed the royal crown of Persia upon her head, and gave her rooms in his palace and many servants to attend her.



Mordecai could no longer see the young woman whom he had cared for as tenderly as his own daughter. But every day he passed by the palace where she lived, and she could see him from her window.

She would send messages to him by her faithful servants, and they would bring back the messages Mordecai wished her to receive. Then Mordecai would return to the king's gate and sit there as a watchman.

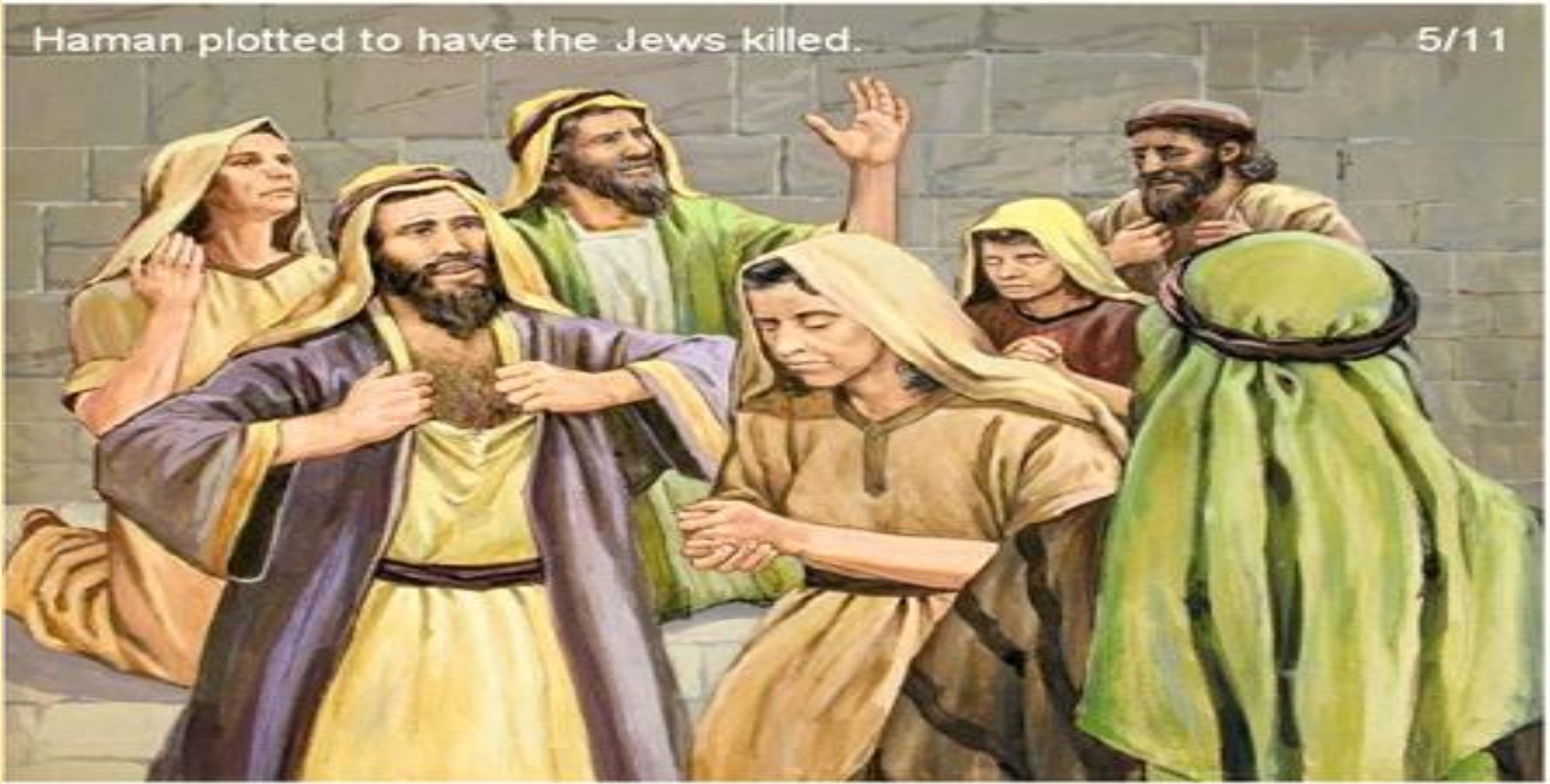
But one day Mordecai did not pass by as usual. And Esther missed him. Perhaps she thought he might be sick. But soon her servants came to tell her that he was walking through the streets of the city, dressed in sackcloth and crying with a loud and bitter cry.

"What has happened?" wondered the Queen, as she hurriedly gathered some new clothes to send to him. How she longed to run out to comfort him, herself! But now she was the Queen, and now she could not go about in the streets. Perhaps she wished that she were not the Queen, after all.

As she sat watching anxiously from her window, soon she saw the servant returning with the clothes she had sent. Mordecai would not take them, and Esther knew that some terrible sorrow had come into his life. So she quickly called another servant, one of the King's servants who sometimes waited on her, and told him to learn from Mordecai the cause of his intense grief.

Haman plotted to have the Jews killed.

5/11



Mordecai told this servant about all that had happened to him, how Haman (Chief servant of the King) had planned to kill all the Jews and had even promised to give money to the King for this cruel purpose.

He told Esther, too, that Mordecai had commanded her to speak to the King and tell him that she was a Jew, and that Haman had planned to kill her and all her people.

At first Esther was afraid to go to the King. She knew the law of the palace: that any one, either a man or a woman, who should approach the throne without being called by the king would be put to death unless the king should hold out to that person the golden scepter.

And she feared to take such a risk; for the King had not called for her in many days, and she supposed he was attending to important matters and did not wish to be disturbed. She sent her servant back to Mordecai to tell him that she dared not go into the presence of the King without being called by him.

Mordecai believed that God had permitted Esther to become Queen on purpose, so that she might at this time save the lives of her people. So he sent word again, telling Esther that she must go, for if she refused she would be sparing her life at that time only to lose it later, when all the Jews in Shushan should be destroyed.

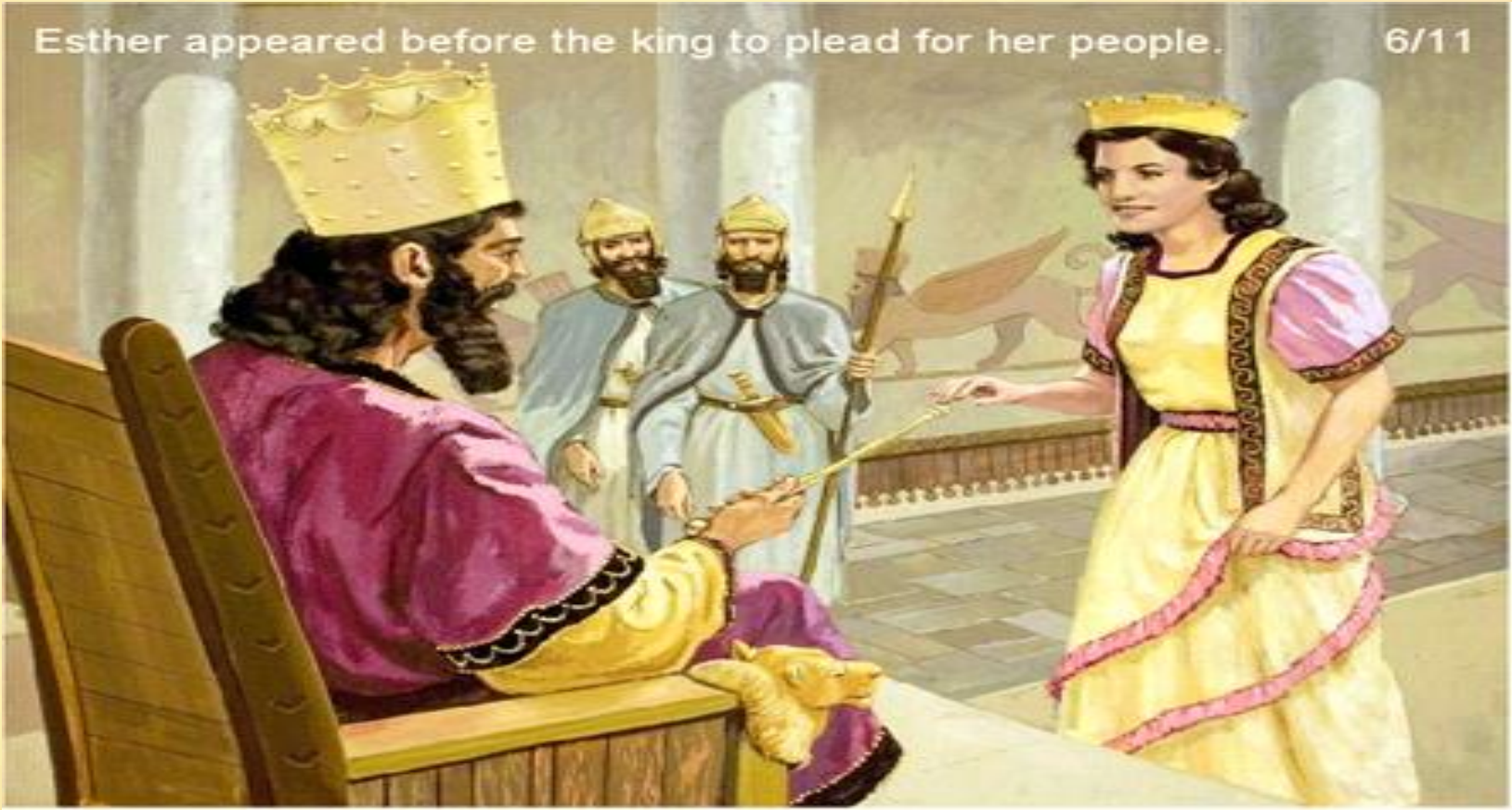
Esther still was fearful to obey the wishes of Mordecai; but she longed to help her people, and she promised to try. She commanded Mordecai to gather all the Jews in Shushan into one place, and **there to fast and pray for three days** that God would give her favor in the eyes of the King.

She and her servants would also fast during that time, and then if Ahasuerus had not yet called for her she would go to him, contrary to the law of the palace, and plead for her life and for the lives of her people.

Mordecai hastily called all the Jews in Shushan and told them of Esther's words. **And they fasted and prayed as she had commanded.**

Esther appeared before the king to plead for her people.

6/11

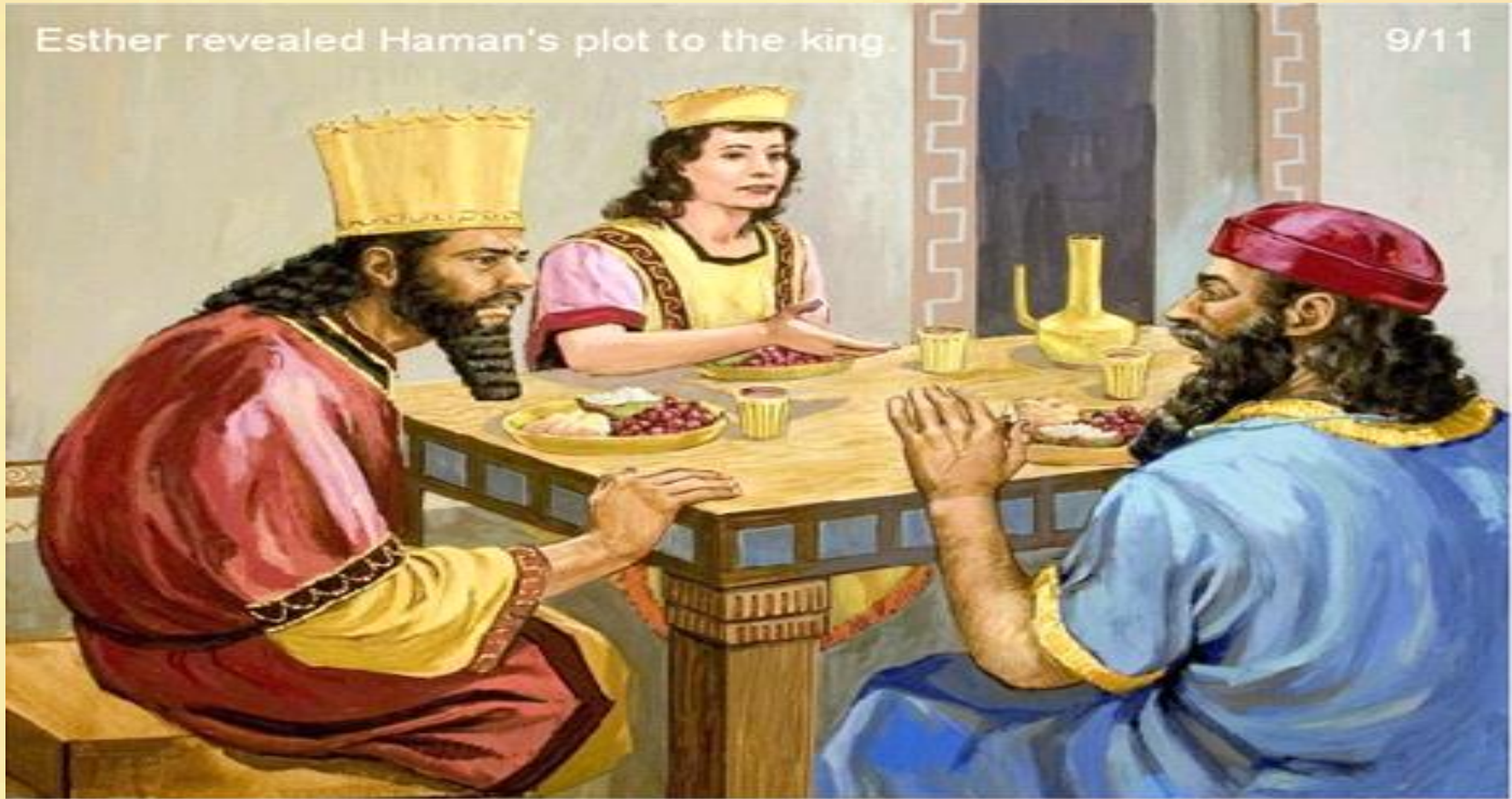


Then, on the third day she dressed in her most beautiful garments and went in to speak to the King.

And again Esther answered simply, "If I have found favor in your eyes, O King, my request is that you and Haman shall return tomorrow and dine with me as you have done today. Then I shall tell you what is my greatest wish." And the King promised that he would come.



Now Esther was ready to tell her story. She may have heard that very morning how highly the King honored Mordecai; for she spoke with courage and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O King, and if it please you, I ask that my life and the lives of my people may be spared, for we have been sold--not to become slaves, but to be killed.



“Ahasuerus was surprised to hear these words. He asked, “Who is he, and where is he, who would dare to do such a thing?” and Esther answered, “That enemy is this wicked Haman.”

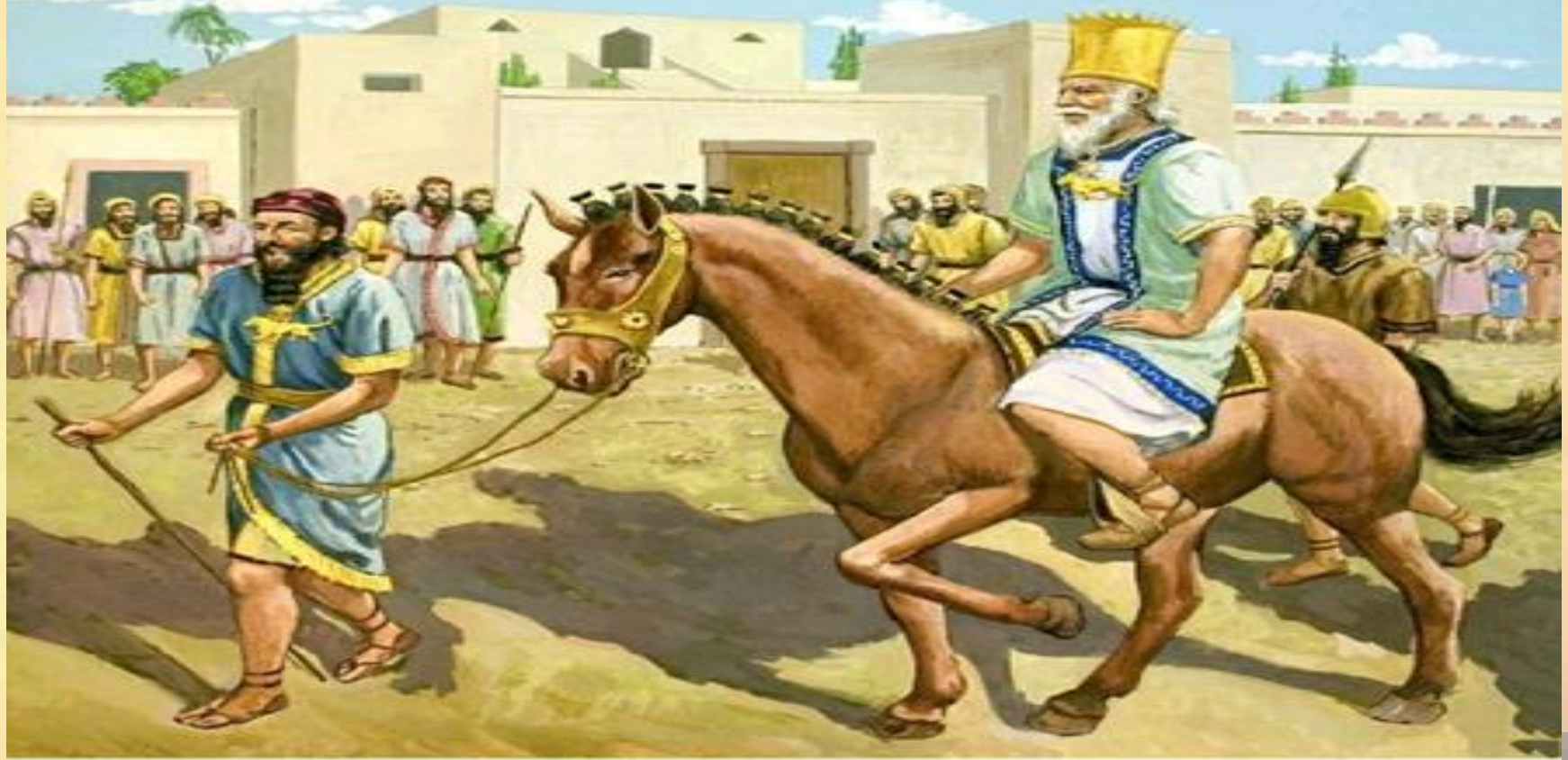
Now Haman was frightened, and he did not know what to do. He had never guessed that the beautiful Queen was a Jewess. He did not know, even yet, that she had been brought up by Mordecai, the man whom he so much despised. Speechless he sat before them, and when he saw the King rise up in anger and leave the room, he sprang from his seat and fell before Esther, begging for mercy from her.

The King walked about in the garden, wondering what he should do to punish Haman. Then he returned and found Haman pleading for his life.

But his pleading could not profit him nothing, for the King's servants came in to arrest Haman according to the order of the King.

Haman led as Mordecai was honored.

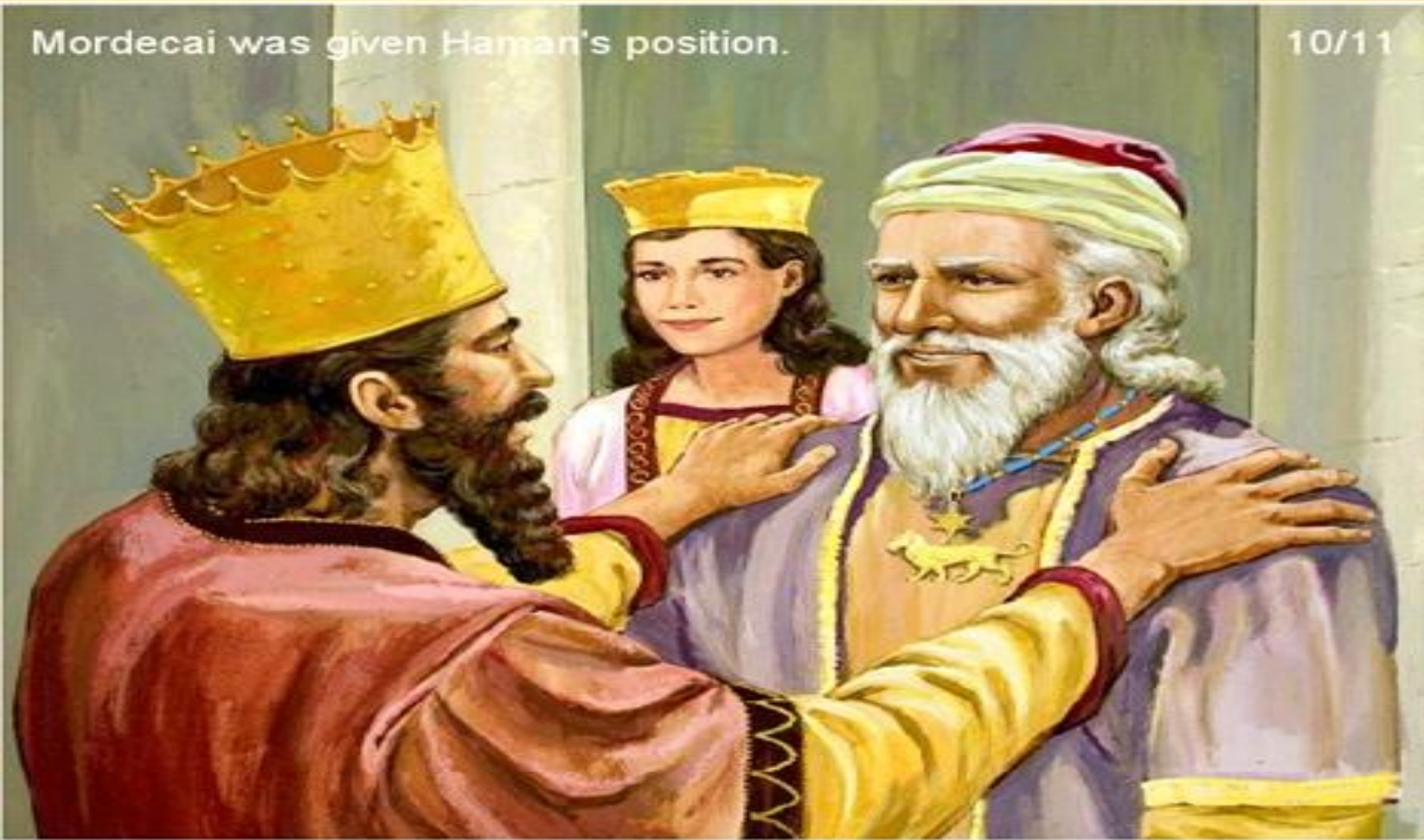
8/11



The King raised Mordecai to a place of great honor in the kingdom.

Mordecai was given Haman's position.

10/11



Mordecai was given Haman's position. He made Mordecai his new chief helper.

Because their enemies feared them, they did not try to kill the Jews on that day, for even the rulers of those lands helped the Jews. And the Jews celebrated the day of their great victory with a great feast, called the Feast of Purim.

Even today the Jews keep this feast, and they always tell the story of Esther, the beautiful Queen, who saved the lives of her people.

Conclusion

- God heard the prayers of Queen Esther and her people. In His perfect timing, God helped them.
- **Prayer and fasting rescued Esther and her people and they also can rescue us today if done with a humble heart.**
- We are now in the middle of a fast which is called Advent. Jesus Christ our Lord is the one who taught us to fast by fasting 40 days Himself.
- ***Let's remember that fasting must be done in love. We need to forgive each other.***

Movie Clip

Show a short movie clip about the story, if available.

<http://www.cross.tv/87421>





Quiz



1.) Who was Ahasuerus' queen at the beginning of the book of Esther?

Amestris

Esther

Vashti

Adah

2.) The king was angry at the queen during a party because:

They ran out of wine

She disobeyed him

He was insane

She wouldn't dance

3.) How long did Esther spend preparing herself to meet the king?

3 months

6 months

12 months

18 months



Quiz



4.) Esther invites the king to a banquet, and also invites who?

Haman

Mordecai

Hathach

Memucan

6.) What gift did the king give Mordecai?

Haman's position

His ring

His signet

7.) Which feast do Jews celebrate because of their deliverance at Esther's time?

Pentecost

Feast of Weeks

Purim



May the love of God the **Father** and the
grace of our Lord **Jesus Christ** and the
fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you.

All: And with your Spirit.

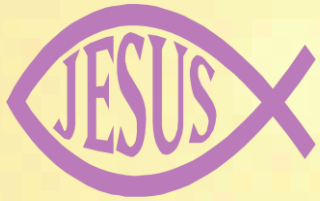
Through the prayers of our holy Fathers,
Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy
on us and save us. Amen.



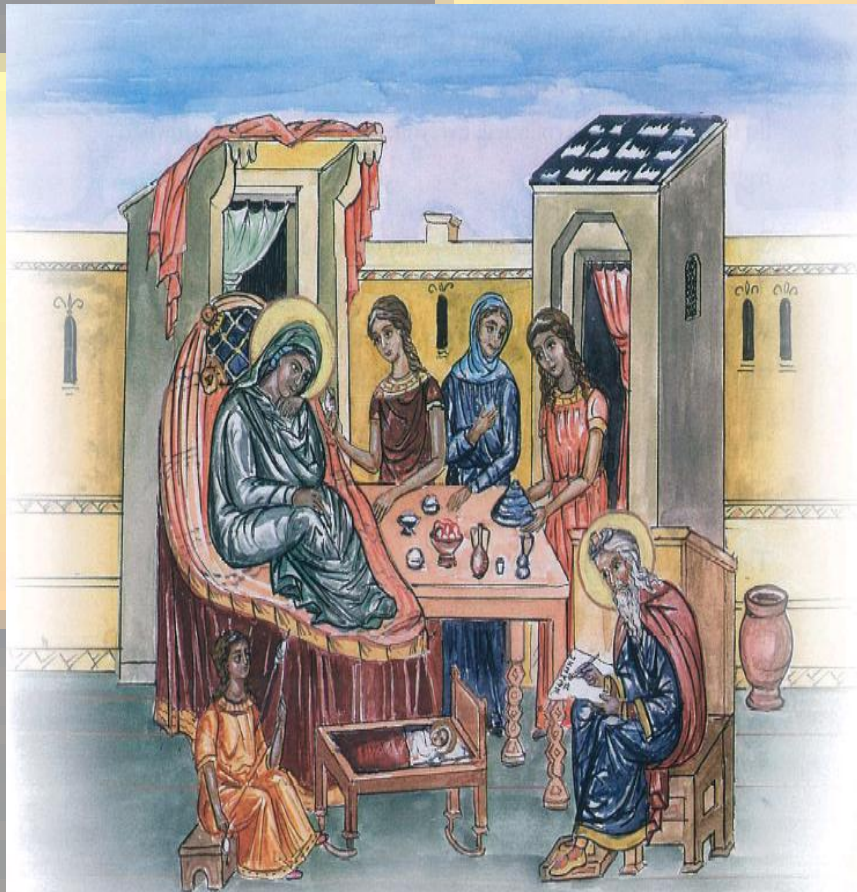
The End

Next Week

We will learn about the birth of Saint John the Baptist.



The next prophet of Israel was John the Baptist, his message was, "Prepare the way for the Lord."



3 things we all can do to strengthen our relationship with God

1. Read the Holy Bible daily preferably when we get up in the morning. 5 minutes to start.
2. Partake Holy Communion regularly.
3. Remember God throughout the day. We can repeat short prayer such as “Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me.”

JESUS CHRIST

- “For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)





*“And you shall know
the truth, and the
truth shall make you
free.” John 8:32*

Any question?

Close with prayer.

