

## Chapter Seven

# The Man *From* Uncle

Esther 2:5 to 7

“I have some good memories of Uncle Jair,” Esther said to Mordecai.

“Yeah, I miss my Dad too...Esther,” Mordecai responded.

After a few moments, Esther continued, “Mordecai, I want to tell you sumptin’.”

“What is it Esther?”

“Well...I was thinking the other day...and...well, I don’t remember ever thankin’ you-after Mom went to be with Dad-for takin’ me in.”

“They’re in a better place, you know.”

“Yeah, I know Mordi. Dat’s another thing. You’re always trying to make me feel good. Like what just happened, a few seconds ago. I tried to thank you, and *you*, turned right around to comfort *me*. You’re really sumptin’ Mordi, you’re really sumptin’. Now it’s my turn to comfort you for a change. You know that little turtle I found the other day? I named him ‘Jair.’ You ain’t upset at me ar ya? I mean since *your* Mom and Dad are gone...I jus wanted ya to know dat I still think about ‘em.”

“I love you Esther”

“I love ya too, Mordi. Can I tell ya sumptin’ else?... Last week, I asked the Rabbi to pray for me...and...well...ya know...I want God’s will and everything...in my life. He said he would. We prayed right there! Ya know what he told me, when we got done?...well, we were really talkin’ about you and your side of the family...and...well, he tole me

your Dad was one of his favorites! He said he really missed ‘im. And then he said sumptin’ reeel unusual to me. He said Jair means, ‘God Enlightens.’ I’ve been thinkin’ ‘bout dat all week...and...I can’t get dat outa my mind. God *Enlightens*?! Did you know dat, Mordi? Did you ever hear dat before...?”

## Who’s, Who?

HERE, is where the *story* of Esther *really* begins. Esther 2:5 to 7 says, Jair had a son named Mordecai, who “...brought up Hadassah, that is Esther, his uncle’s daughter...” Mordecai’s Uncle was Abihail, Esther’s Father. (Esther 2:15) If you’re curious where Esther developed her strength, look no further than Abihail. His name means, “Father of Might” or “Strength.” Make no mistake about it; Hadassah became strong at the hand of her Father!

For this study, we will not concern ourselves with “*his* uncle’s daughter” (Esther 2:7a), but rather with *her* uncle’s son! Esther’s uncle was Jair, and his son, was named Mordecai. Affectionately, we will call him, *The Man from Uncle*<sup>1</sup>!!

As we saw in the above narrative, Jair means, “God Enlightens.” That’s a very fitting name for Mordecai’s Father, especially since Mordecai typifies Christ! And like Christ, he becomes second in the kingdom, but only *after* he “...suffered without the gate.” (Hebrews 13:12. See, Esther 4:2.) Jair, *Mordecai’s FATHER*, means, “GOD *Enlightens*”, but his name also means, “Luminous, Enlightener-LIGHT”!!! “Have ye not read this scripture...?” (-Quoting Mark 12:10) “...God IS light, and in him is no darkness AT ALL...” (I John 1:5) Isn’t God, “...the Father of lights...”? (James 1:17) Didn’t Jesus say, “...I am the light of the world...”? (John 8:12) And truly, wasn’t God *His* FATHER? Didn’t Jesus attest to that fact, in the *same* chapter? Isn’t our

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<sup>1</sup> *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* was a popular Television series during the 1960’s and 70’s.

Saviour's Father "Light"? Wasn't Mordecai's *Father* also LIGHT?  
Aren't types wonderful?!!!

## Mission Impossible

Time was running out. The enemy was winning. Chaos was everywhere. (Genesis 1:2)  
Something had to be done.

God had a plan! A son must be given. (Isaiah 9:6a) Not just *any* son, His Son! (John 3:16)

"Call Him in. He must go on a urgent *mission*."

"*Impossible!* It can't be done."

"We must try. He's our only hope. The inhabitants of the planet *must* be saved!"

"What shall we call this Hero? Surely, He'll be their Messiah.... Hmm, what shall His name be? Here's some. How 'bout, Wonderful?... Counsellor?... The mighty God?... The everlasting Father?... The Prince of Peace? Do you like any of them?"

"Yes I do, we will use them *ALL*...but *not now*. Today, we must try to control the situation another way. When that system fails we have an *alternate* plan, and we will then send for Him."

"How will we recognize Him?"

"We will send agents...many agents to predict His coming. They will give you clues. Watch THEM closely, and you'll know *how* to detect *His* presence." (I Peter 1:10 and 11. Look that one up!!)

YEARS LATER...

"How's the surveillance going?"

"Pretty well. The enemy seems to be backing off...but there's another man in town...keep an eye on him. I think he goes by the name of 'Haman the son of Hammedatha'. He just got 'kicked up the ladder' by the King...and...well...just watch 'im, *he's got shifty eyes*."

"Has the new agent arrived yet?"

"Actually...he lives here too. He's lived here all his life-a hometown boy. Lemme remindya...like always...his assignment must go undetected."

"What's his name?"

"His undercover name is 'Mordecai the Jew'. But we call 'im, 'The Man from Uncle!'"

## Off to Save the Planet

God had a wonderful plan to save this planet from the hand of the enemy. In fact, it was simple. He would send them a HERO. That hero would be known as "The Son of God." There was only one problem with this plan. If no one *knew* who He was, who would RECOGNIZE Him when he showed up?

A subsequent plan had to be drawn up. More had to be known. Questions needed answers, and information supplied. Who would know ALL the facts? Who would live *long enough* to give them out?! A shout was heard near the back of the auditorium. Someone yelled out, "I got the answer!" Then another cried, "GLORY!!" The

moderator stepped closer to the microphone to summon the reply. All Heaven and Earth stood silently by as he gestured for the answer. These were the words they heard: “A BOOK. Write the information *in a Book!*”

The plan was set in motion... “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth...” That was a good start, but more work had to be done, much more!

It was decided that this Book would become a *big* Book with many *smaller* ones inside. In all, they would number thirty-nine. (II Corinthians 11:24) One less than forty would be sufficient. To show the inhabitants their condition, it was further decided to end this Book “...with a curse...” (Malachi 4:6b)

“...Watching daily at...” his “...gates...” (Proverbs 8:34), another decision was made. This Book *had to* be completed four hundred years before our Hero’s birth. That would give these men time to study it, and see what was written inside.

Century after century; newly written pages were being compiled. This Book was getting bigger, *a lot* bigger! Soon the quota would be met, but not today. Today, more letters had to be etched out, to complete even more words. Those words turned into sentences, and those sentences into paragraphs. Finally, those paragraphs became whole chapters-which ended this arduous task.

At last, this Manuscript was complete. All those Books were now made ONE.

Wisely, men began to review it. They were amazed at what they saw. No matter where in The Book they turned, word pictures began to appear. There was no mistake about it: These pictures RESEMBLED God’s Son. So ingrained was His image, they later made it His name, by dubbing Him, “The WORD”. (John 1:1) Even those who chose to reject this Hero had NO DOUBT *who* He was!! (Matthew 21:33 to 46)

Decidedly, God intended man to know the future. These pictures (now in a book) made it easy. Any agent reading The OLD Testament codebook was now armed with spiritual perception and foresight. This enabled them to see into the future.

The wait was over. The mission was on. Someone yelled out, “It’s a go!” Dispatched from *Headquarters*; The Messiah would be arriving soon. The agents who studied the codebook easily detected Him. Even *before* He was seen; the radar gun of prophecy had Him on their scope. (See, Matthew 2:4 and 5) Those early sketches had tipped them off! (Luke 1:70) The Book had accomplished its goal!

Today, when we “...Search the scriptures...” (John 5:39a-Jesus was referring to The *OLD* Testament), we discover our Hero all over again. Could this be the reason we Bible *Believing* Christians are so dogmatic; when it comes to *that* BOOK?! Every time we open It, we SEE Jesus!!! In Esther’s Book, we see Him in the character of Mordecai: A Jew, who endured temptation directly from the hand of Haman-a type of the Devil; suffering outside the gate to save his people; a close relative to the King’s second wife, who, by the way, got that position by taking heed to *him*; and, after the battle is ended, gets exalted as the *second* ruler of the Kingdom.

How could anyone who read the New Testament miss *this* Old Testament picture of Christ?!!!

While we’re on the subject of types, please don’t let the *differences* throw you. In other words, in The Book of Ruth, Ruth-*the Gentile*, marries Boaz-*the Jew*, but, in The Book of Esther, Esther-*the Jew*, marries King Ahasuerus-*the Gentile*. Keep in mind-till later, Mordecai *the Jew*, doesn’t marry ANYONE! The simple answer to all this is, God gave us two *different* pictures of the SAME person. The *first* picture; centers on Christ’s *First*

*Coming*, and the *second*, around His *Second Coming*! [That bears repeating; please read that last sentence *AGAIN*.] The first Book-The Book of Ruth, is a picture of The Kingdom of God. The second Book-The Book of Esther, is a picture of The Kingdom of Heaven. Christians can make *DIRECT* application to the first picture, but not to the second. Here, the *JEW* is *the SUBJECT*, and the focus (of this Book) is on The King's *SECOND* wife.

### Mix-O, Change-O!

The Kingdom of *God* and The Kingdom of *Heaven* are two *different* Kingdoms. Though they appear *similar* at times, these two Kingdoms *ARE NOT THE SAME*! Could that be why The Book of Ruth is similar to The Book of Esther, but *NOT* at all the same?!!

The pictures of The Kingdom of God should never be *MIXED* in with the pictures relating to The Kingdom of Heaven. Permit me to show you what I'm saying. As a young boy, I remember swapping baseball and football cards with the other children on *my* block. (Frankly, I think I bought them for the slab of gum that accompanied each package, as much as I did for the neat cards inside.) All those cards were kept in a shoebox, bundled by two rubber bands. The Baseball cards were bound with one rubber band, and the (smaller package of) Football cards were bound with the other.

One day, I accidentally dropped the shoebox and the rubber bands gave way. Scattered before me, were hundreds of cards lying pell-mell. Like most children, I was irresponsible, and-what's worse, in a hurry. With only an hour remaining until dinner, I was forced to make a decision. Do I invest the time and effort it would take to properly reorganize these cards, or do I run to play? Since the only nature I possessed back then was the *old* nature, this decision required no struggle. My flesh won out! In fact, shirking that responsibility even made me *feel good*. I reached down, recovered my rubber bands, and re-bundled my cards. This time though, I did it *without looking* at THE PICTURES. Now my shoebox contained two *equal* stacks of *MIXED* cards. I put my box away, and went skipping out to play.

Let me ask you a few questions. If you created pictures that *TOLD A STORY*, how would you feel if someone mixed them up, or mixed them up with a *DIFFERENT SET* of pictures? Wouldn't that new set (of pictures) tell a *DIFFERENT* story? What if the pictures in the *same set* were told *OUT OF SEQUENCE*? Wouldn't that tell a *MIXED-UP* story?

I wonder how God feels, when we're in a hurry and mix up *HIS PICTURES*? Could The Kingdom of *God*, really be the *SAME* as The Kingdom of *Heaven*? If not, shouldn't we take the time to examine them, and distinguish the differences?

Even though The Kingdom of God is *NOT* The Kingdom of Heaven, nothing should stop the Christian from making *spiritual* application to The Book of Esther. For example, didn't Mordecai adopt Esther? Aren't Christians also adopted? When we were saved, didn't we receive "...the Spirit of adoption..." making us "...joint heirs with Christ..."? (Romans 8:15 to 17)

Let's go further. Wasn't Esther an heir of the King, *through* Mordecai? Didn't our "...adoption...", make us "...an heir of God *through* Christ..."? (Galatians 4:5 to 7)

Wasn't Esther a Jew, and our Saviour too? Aren't we, who are "...members of His BODY..." and "...of his *FLESH*..." deemed *spiritual* Jews? (Ephesians 5:30 and 32; Romans 2:28 and 29)

Wasn't it Jesus who said our *eternal* relationships are much more important than our *natural* ones? (Please see, Mark 3:33-35, 10:29 and 30.) Didn't He also say, "He that loveth father and mother MORE than me is not worthy of me..."? (Matthew 10:37a) Weren't Esther's parents deceased and *out of the picture*?! Didn't she have a *special relationship* with Mordecai, even *after* she was made Queen?

Didn't Esther obey Mordecai? Wasn't that *how* her people got DELIVERED? Won't *our* obedience to Christ do the same? Isn't that what Saint Paul taught? Didn't Saint Paul teach us to die to self, in order to DELIVER *our* people? Weren't his (exact) words, "I die daily"? (1 Corinthians 15:31) Wasn't he one of the greatest CHRISTIANS that ever lived? Didn't he walk in Christ, like Esther walked in Mordecai? (Colossians 2:6) Wasn't his greatest desire, to see his people DELIVERED? Didn't he say in Romans 10:1, "Brethren, my hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel, is that they might be saved..."? Wasn't Paul willing to perish for his people-The Jews; in order to see them saved? (Romans 9:1 to 3) Isn't that exactly what Esther was willing to do? (Esther 4:23) Didn't the Apostle Paul try to win his people, against all odds and advisement? (Acts 21) Didn't Esther the Jew do the same? (Esther 4:11)

Aren't Mordecai and Esther close relatives-and Christ, *our* relative too?! (Proverbs 18:24) Didn't *This* Saviour "...redeem..." us "...that we might receive the adoption..."? (Galatians 4:5) Would you please read *Ephesians 1:4 to 11a*? Aren't adoption (vs.5) and redemption (vs.7) close relatives? Didn't Mordecai CHOSE Esther (vs.4), and ADOPT her, too? (Vs. 5) Doesn't the Bible say that Mordecai made Esther "...ACCEPTED IN THE..." King? (Vs. 6) Since those things are so, doesn't it also stand to reason that Mordecai REDEEMED her (vs. 7), *before* she gained "...AN INHERITANCE..." with the King? (Vs. 11a)

Isn't Redemption the *first* relationship Ruth has with Boaz? (Ruth 4:9) Wasn't her first husband dead? Isn't Redemption how Boaz was able to marry her and continue her inheritance? (Ruth 4:5b) *Isn't Ruth a type of the Born Again Christian?*

Since *both* her parents were dead, didn't Esther have an inheritance coming? And according to Numbers 27:1-11; shouldn't her inheritance *continue*? Are we wrong to conclude, *before* she could receive it, she had to be redeemed? Wasn't her cousin Mordecai the only one around to do it? Doesn't the Bible say, her "...uncles son may redeem..." her? (Leviticus 25:49) Would Mordecai ADOPT Esther, and choose not to REDEEM her?

Isn't the context of Isaiah 59:20 and 21 redeeming Israel? Doesn't Esther REPRESENT Israel who (re)marries the King? Isn't she *first* redeemed by Mordecai the JEW? Wasn't he an Old Testament *type* of JESUS? Isn't Paul actually quoting Isaiah 59:20; when he said, "...the DELIVERER...shall come out of Sion"? (Romans 11:26) Doesn't that verse refer to Christ's SECOND Coming? Won't He come one day to DELIVER the Jews from the hand of the enemy? Didn't He come to redeem them FIRST? Isn't that the relationship that Mordecai has with Esther? Isn't he *first* her REDEEMER and *then* her DELIVERER??? (Esther 2:7 and 6:11-for example) [By the way, isn't Israel, The King's wife, called "the DAUGHTER of Zion"? (Isaiah 1:8; 62:11 and 12) Isn't *Zion* where her Redeemer will come to build again the Tabernacle of David? (Acts 15:16) Won't that take place just AFTER He DELIVERS her?]

As anyone can see, SPIRITUAL application to these Old Testament types CAN be made for New Testament Believers. Keeping the Kingdoms in perspective will help us do just *that*.

Mordecai stands with Esther in the same place that Boaz stood with Ruth, except for two things. Ruth was a Gentile widow who through *redemption* married Boaz the Jew. Esther was a Jewish orphan who was *adopted* by The Man *from* Uncle Jair.

## The Writing on the Wall

**“Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.”** Esther 2:6

Does the above verse look familiar to you? It’s very similar to one found in The Book of Daniel. In fact, it is the very *first* verse.

**“In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.”**

Daniel is taken captive in the third year of Jehoiakim. Kish, Mordecai’s Great Grandfather (Esther 2:5), was taken captive during the reign of Jeconiah, Jehoiakim’s son. (Also called Jehoiachin and Coniah. II Kings 24; Jeremiah 22.) Unless we find a common thread here, the above history becomes merely a collection of facts. Though not evident at first glance, the common thread in these two stories is their LOCATION. Both stories TAKE PLACE “...in the king’s palace...” (Daniel 1:4) At one time or another, Daniel, Mordecai, and Esther all lived captive in the *same place*. Even though Mordecai and Esther show up three to four generations after Daniel becomes captive, all three spend much of their lives making the King’s palace their home.

Could these *historical* facts teach us a *spiritual* truth? Absolutely! Knowing that Esther lived in the SAME palace that Daniel lived in years earlier; will answer the following question. *Who* taught Esther *how* to overcome temptation? I’ll answer that soon, but first another *short* history lesson.

Daniel lived in Nebuchadnezzar’s palace, under the first and second Gentile dominion. The first dominion was called “fine gold”, according to the King’s dreams, and “a lion” kingdom that “had eagle’s wings”, according to Daniel’s own night vision. (Daniel 2:32 and 7:4)

Esther lived in the SAME palace (Compare Daniel 8:2 with Esther 1:2), about a quarter of a century later. Under the reign of Ahasuerus-Xerxes, she lived in the second kingdom that Daniel predicted should come. It was called the “silver” and “bear” (with three ribs in its mouth) kingdom. (Daniel 2:32 and 7:5)

I repeat; *who* taught Esther *how* to overcome temptation?

Mordecai was a fourth generation captive living in the land of Shinar, who lived in “Shushan the palace”. (Esther 2:5) He was living there with his cousin, who he was raising alone.

Do you remember the story of Belshazzar’s feast? It’s found in Daniel chapter five. (If you haven’t read this story in a long time, please take this opportunity to read it now.)

“Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine....” He “...commanded to bring golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem....” There, in the King’s palace, “...they

drank wine, and praised..." their *false* "...gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone." (Daniel 5:1 to 4)

Look what happens next. "In the same hour came forth the fingers of a man's hand, and wrote...upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace...MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN." (Daniel 5:5 and 25) If you read the story, you know that King Belshazzar gets slain (vs. 30), but not before he exalts Daniel to the third ruler of the kingdom. (Vs. 29)

Who taught Esther *how* to overcome temptation? I'll answer that shortly. First, we need to find out one more thing. Where are the words? What ever happened to *the writing on the wall*? By the time Esther moved into the palace, at least fifty years had passed since those fateful words had been inscribed.

Does anyone know what happened to them? (The Bible doesn't say.<sup>2</sup>) We can only guess. Let's think about this for a moment. Did someone plaster over them? Were they erased somehow? Let me ask you, what would *you* do with words that were mysteriously etched into/onto a wall??? Would you try to get rid of them? Would you try to cover over them? Personally, I would LEAVE THEM ALONE!!! I read the story. I'd be afraid that the *same* judgment that fell on Belshazzar would (also) fall on ME!

Daniel is only mentioned two times in the New Testament, and *both times*, it was by Jesus. (Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14) When Jesus was pointing to future events, He quoted "Daniel the prophet", because Daniel knew the FUTURE. The truth of the matter is, Daniel was KNOWN for two main things: *resisting the flesh*, AND *understanding the future*. Let me show you what I mean...

**"Then was Daniel brought in before the king." (Belshazzar) "And the king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou THAT Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom my father brought out of Jewry? I HAVE HEARD OF THEE..."** [The FIRST way Belshazzar heard of Daniel was the eating and drinking contest he had under Nebuchadnezzar, about forty years earlier. (Daniel chapter one)], **"AND I HEARD OF THEE,..."** [The SECOND way Belshazzar heard of Daniel was from his notoriety *as a prophet*.] **"...that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts..."** (Daniel 5:13 to 16)

Who taught Esther how to overcome temptation? None other than Daniel *the prophet*. His legacy was "...heard of..." throughout the kingdom. He was known for having victory over the flesh AND accurately perceiving the future. Esther's strength to overcome temptation came from *finger lines* on an old plastered wall. That souvenir reminded her that someone before her had power with God to overcome the flesh. Esther knew those lines didn't mean a thing, without connecting Daniel's interpretation to them. God's *prophet*, interpreting God's *message*, PROVED God's *power*. Daniel had power with God and PROVED it when those words came TRUE!! (Daniel 5:25- 31) Esther concluded (as should we) that the power to know the future *certainly* can be used to overcome the flesh.

Today, when we *read The Scripture*, God empowers us in the same way He empowered Esther. Don't forget, every time she read the *words* written in the plaster, she was strengthened. The fingers once used in stone, plaster, and earth (Exodus 31:18;

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<sup>2</sup> Archaeological note: Artaxerxes II (405-385 B.C.) inscribed, This "...Palace was burned...in the reign of my grandfather...", Artaxerxes I. (This was the King AFTER Xerxes) And, "...I have restored it."

Daniel 5:5; John 8:6), were also used to give us "...a more sure word of prophecy..."! (II Peter 1:19-21) [After all, weren't the *fingers of inspiration* used to WRITE IT DOWN?! (II Timothy 3:16 and III John 13 for example)] By reading God's *prophetical* Book-THE BIBLE, Christians are able to overcome temptation. Like Esther, we are SURE that The One who wrote those words knows the future!

### A Little Jerky

Before I end this chapter, I thought the reader would like a little "jerky" to chew on.

Do you remember me saying, "Mordecai doesn't marry anyone"? As far as we know, Mordecai, Daniel, and Paul never got married. [Neither did Jesus, during his incarnation! Obviously, the *answer* to "The Da Vinci Code" is "...the bride, the Lamb's wife." (Revelation 21:2 and 9)] I'd like to offer a few other similarities between these three men.

Wasn't the Apostle Paul the minister to the Gentiles? (Romans 11:13) Didn't Daniel minister to the Gentiles too? Wasn't he forced to leave his homeland and go to the Gentiles, becoming their resident prophet (spiritual) and president (political)? Didn't Mordecai the Jew minister to the Gentiles, both *spiritually* (Esther 8:17), and *politically* (Esther 10:3), as second ruler in Ahasuerus' kingdom? (Esther chapter 10)

Wasn't Mordecai a Benjamite? (Esther 2:5) And Paul one too? (Romans 11:1; Philippians 3:5) Wasn't Daniel taken captive from the *Southern* Kingdom (leaving a fifty-fifty chance he was also of the tribe of Benjamin)? (I Kings 12:20; Daniel 1:6; Ezra 1:5)

Last, aren't Christians called to follow Paul? (I Corinthians 11:1) Wasn't Esther called to follow both *Mordecai* (now her parent-Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 15:9), and *Daniel*? (Deuteronomy 18:19 to 22)