

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## Old Testament 4

### Law/Gospel

In my sin, I am apathetic and anxious, and I despair in this life. **No matter how desperate the times or how hidden God and His ways seem to be, the Lord has a plan to save me in Jesus, His Son.**

### Bible Words

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.  
Psalm 34:17

### Fun Facts

The Book of Esther is the only book in the Bible that does not include God's name or any of the names the Bible uses for Him, such as Lord, Adonai, or Yahweh.

### Sing

Anytime, day or night  
God's good angels are there,  
Watching over me,  
Watching over me.  
Anywhere, day or night,  
God's good angels are there,  
Watching over me,  
Watching over me.

"Angels Are There," by Gail Pawlitz, from *Sing and Wonder*, p. 16, copyright © 2015 CPH.

## Esther

### Book of Esther

It would be hard to find a popular movie plot more dramatic than the one recorded in the Book of Esther.

A powerful king chose an orphan raised by her cousin as his new queen. Soon after, the queen's cousin infuriated a new adviser to the king because he would not bow and pay homage to him. Seeking revenge, the arrogant adviser plotted to kill the cousin and his whole tribe, not realizing the plan ensnared the queen as well. Instead, God helped the queen cleverly expose the conspirator and save her people.

All this happened in Babylon during the reign of King Ahasuerus. Exiled by an earlier king, the Jewish people lived away from their homeland, but God did not abandon them. The Lord delivered them from annihilation through the efforts of Queen Esther and her cousin Mordecai.

The narrative reminds us of God's great love that rescued us from sin through the death of His sinless Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In His death on the cross, Jesus paid for our sins. When He rose from the dead three days later, He defeated death and the power of the devil. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

### The Festival of Purim

To celebrate God's rescue, the Jews established the festival of Purim 473 BC in Susa. Today, Jewish people celebrate Purim for one day in late February or early March, a month before Passover.

*Purim* means "lot." Haman chose the date to kill the Jews by casting lots, a random process, such as picking a short stick.

During the celebration, the Book of Esther is read aloud. The people boo, hiss, and make noise whenever they hear Haman's name. The celebration also includes singing, special foods, costumes, plays, and pageants with girls dressed up as Queen Esther.

### Prayer

*Dear Lord, when we feel defeated or overwhelmed, give us hope and trust in You, the one true God, who protects, defends, and guides us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

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