

\*\*\*\*\*LOGISTICS ANNOUNCEMENT\*\*\*\*\*

1. The continuation of our class for discussion on GoToMeeting went well, so that's how we will proceed. As we did last week, we will give some time for folks to leave the meeting after the teaching portion is finished. Everyone will be muted so if you have a question, just unmute *yourself* and speak.
2. When you are logging in to the class, be sure you are muted so that any conversations you are having with others in your home will not be distracting.

Week 6: Esther

Scripture Readings: **The Book of Esther**; if you wish to read the alternate version from the *Septuagint*, go to biblegateway.com and put Esther Greek into the search box and New Revised Standard Version into the translation preference box. Because there are additions to this version, the chapter numbering will be different. You will see various Additions and chapter numbers. You will know you are on the right page when you see an explanation of the Greek version and Addition A, detailing Mordecai's dream.

1. The Story of Esther
2. Why is this book in the Bible?
3. How is God present in a book that does not mention his name?
4. How does Esther carry the burden of her position to effect change?
5. How does Esther's story inform our discipleship?

Media Info: There are several movies out there that deal with this story. *Esther and the King*, starring Joan Collins and Richard Egan. This movie was made during that Hollywood phase of biblical epics (1960) and the only real resemblance to the biblical story is that it takes place in Persia and uses the characters' names. It's more about Haman trying to assassinate the king. Not helpful. It does stream on Amazon Prime.

A more edifying film is The Bible Collection: Esther (2000). It is available to stream on Amazon Prime for a rental of \$1.99. And of course, there is the Veggie Tales version, *Esther: The Girl Who Became Queen*. It gets the story pretty straight but in order to make it suitable for children, they replaced the threat of genocide with banishment to *The Isle of Perpetual Tickling*. It, too, is available for streaming on Amazon Prime.