

# digging deeper: destiny & dynasty

## **PART II: DEADLY DILEMMA**

### **HAMAN AND MORDECAI**

1. On Sunday, Andrew covered one theory of why Mordecai wouldn't bow to Haman (he didn't respect Haman). There are other theories, though. Are you aware of what they are (NONE of them are in the Bible).
2. What do you personally think drove Mordecai to not kneel before Haman?
3. Circling back to Mordecai keeping his Jewishness a secret: he may have encountered racism at various points in his life, and wanted Esther to "blend in" so she wouldn't be targeted. Ironically, he triggers a mountain of racism himself.

### **MORDECAI CONFRONTS ESTHER**

1. What do you think Mordecai meant in 4:14 "... if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place..."?  
Note: This could be translated as a rhetorical question.
2. Do you think he meant to threaten her in 4:14 when he said, "but you and your father's family will perish?" Wasn't Mordecai part of her father's family?
3. As we think about Esther being where she is "for such a time as this," how does that inform our current locations and circumstances?

### **ESTHER'S RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM, 4:14-16**

*"If I perish, I perish."*

Esther asked for fasting to be done - three days, daytime and nighttime.

1. What usually accompanies fasting?
2. (Exodus 34:28; Deuteronomy 9:9; Judges 20:26; Ezra 8:21-23)
3. Why do you think prayer isn't mentioned?

### **RELEVANT QUESTIONS:**

1. Seeing herself as "those people" may have (finally) motivated Esther to act. Who are "those people" today and how can we see ourselves as "those people"? Once we see ourselves as "those people," what should we do?
2. What should be the goal of all our religious observances (such as fasting)?