

# A New Look at the Old Testament

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Sermon Notes

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## The Power of an Uncle

Most of us only focus on Esther when we read the book of Esther. Today, let's look at Mordecai and how he stands as God's ambassador in a godless world, how he creates a lasting legacy, and how he shows us the power of family (one of God's gifts to humankind).

### Esther 2:5-7, 20

5 Now there was a Jew in the citadel of Susa whose name was Mordecai son of Jair son of Shimei son of Kish, a Benjaminite.

6 Kish had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with King Jeconiah of Judah, whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had carried away. 7 Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is Esther, his cousin, for she had neither father nor mother; the girl was fair and beautiful, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter.

20 Now Esther had not revealed her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had charged her; for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him.

### OBSERVATIONS

Mordecai was from the Jewish tribe of Benjamin. In his introduction, his heritage (his family tree) is a part of who he is.

Mordecai is honorable and compassionate. He cares for Esther not as a servant, or even as a distant relative, but rather he cares for as if she were his daughter.

Esther has such respect for Mordecai's wisdom that she listens to his advice even after she is no longer under his guardianship.

## **FURTHER STUDY** *for a Deeper Understanding*

Read the entire book of Esther, focusing on Mordecai's role and influence. Then read Daniel 3. Notice the similar names and situations regarding the Jews kneeling to another god. We are reminded that the story of God's people keeps building.

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## **APPLICATION** *for Daily Living*



God sent a part of Himself to earth to live as a human and as part of a human family. This was intentional. God chose to become like us so that we could become more like Him. As a family, be it our biological, adopted, or spiritual family, God uses us to build up the character of each other. We are never alone, and family reminds us of that spiritual truth.

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## **QUESTIONS** *for Discussion*

Describe your family. Where do you see God in your family?

How has your family life impacted your concept of who God is?

How have you felt the presence of the family of God in your life (the family that is composed of all believers)?

How are you being an ambassador of Christ in your family?