

CHARACTERS

- ESTHER (HADASSAH) A young attractive Jewess, of the tribe of Benjamin, daughter of Abihail, orphaned in early childhood, adopted by her cousin Mordecai, chosen to be Queen of Persia
- YOUNG ESTHER (HADASSAH) Esther as a young child of 11
- MORDECAI: He is a descendant of King Saul of the tribe of Benjamin, in his 50s, serving the Persian King's court, who is given charge to raise Esther as his own daughter.
- XERXES (AHASUERUS) The son of Darius I, born of his mother Atossa, approximately 40, who reigns as absolute monarch of the Persian Empire (486-465 B.C.) He is given to drink, rage, and the counsel of others. He is Ahazuerus in the Hebrew Bible which would be heard by Hebrew speakers 'Ahashwerosh' as 'King Headache'. He is a deal maker, yet as the Emperor, insists on having the last say. He wants to be feared, and loved. He wants to be an honor to the memory of his father, Darius. He is reckless and impulsive, quick to take life or offer favor. He has been taught to see himself as a divinity.
- VASHTI The beautiful first wife of Xerxes I, the daughter of Babylonian King, Belshazzar and granddaughter of Nebuchadnezzar. She is wise and noble and makes attempts to protect her husband from falling prey to his weaknesses.
- EZRA A young zealous scribe, in his late teens or early twenties, son of Seriah, who exhorts the Jewish exiles in Persia to return to Israel.
- SERIAH Leader of the Israeli delegation bringing the tribute of sacred scrolls to Xerxes

HAMAN	The ambitious Agagite who despises the Jews and Mordecai in particular.
ZERESH	Haman's wife who fuels his ambitions and his shame.
MEMUCAN	The Vizier, the leading figure of The Seven Counselors given special access as adviser to the King
ADMATHA	One of the Seven Counselors
CARSHENA	One of the Seven Counselors
MERES, MARSENA	Of the Seven Counselors
SHETHAR, TARSHISH	Of the Seven Counselors (Male Ensemble)
VASHTI'S GUESTS	Wives of Dignitaries (Female Ensemble)
VASHTI'S DANCERS	Entertainers at Vashti's Banquet (Female Ensemble)
HARBONA	Xerxes' Chamberlain, one of the Seven Eunuchs
HATACH	The Queen's Chamberlain
MEHUMAN, BIZTHA,	Of the Seven Eunuchs (Male Ensemble)
BIGTHA, ABAGTHA	Of the Seven Eunuchs (Male Ensemble)
ZITHAR, CARCAS	Of the Seven Eunuchs (Male Ensemble)
HEGAI	The eunuch in charge of the Palace of Women, especially fond of Esther
MIZPAR	Delegate from Israel given the duty of paying tribute to the Persian monarch.
GENERAL MARDONIUS	Persian General who attends honorary banquet, cousin to Xerxes
GENERAL MASISTOS	Persian Calvary Commander
ARAFEEN	A female servant assigned to assist Hegai, promoted to serve the Queen

SEVEN MAIDENS	The Seven who are assigned to attend to Esther's 12 months of preparation
HAREM GIRLS	Female Ensemble
DANCERS	Male and Female Ensemble
BIGTHAN	Xerxes' bodyguard
TERESH	Xerxes' bodyguard
REPRESENTATIVES FROM EGYPT, BACTRIA, ASSYRIA, INDIA, CHALDEA AND NATIONS	Male and Female Ensemble
PEOPLE OF SUSAN	Male and Female Ensemble
CHILDREN	Those presented to the King as tribute; Those studying under Hadassah; Citizenry of Susa