

ESTHER

*California
Christadelphian
Kids
Camp
2009*

*Intermediate
Workbook*

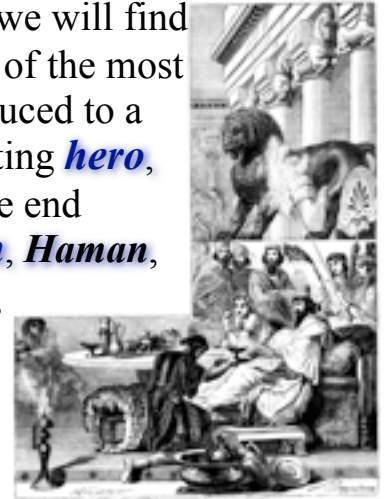
Name _____
"this workbook has been completed to the best of my ability"

Parent's Signature _____

“All Things Work Together For Good To Them That Love God”

A young girl’s parents die, she is raised by her cousin in captivity in a foreign land, she becomes the Queen of Persia, and eventually helps in saving the lives of an entire race of people.

What an exciting story! As we go through our study, we will find that the story recorded for us in the book of Esther is one of the most dramatic stories told in the Bible. Not only are we introduced to a beautiful and brave **heroine Esther**, but we have an exciting **hero, Mordecai**, who risks his life to do what is right, and in the end becomes a ruler with the King! We learn of a true **villain, Haman**, who is so full of hatred that he puts everything else aside, and does everything he can just to try to annihilate, obliterate and wipe out every Jew in the land, but in the end his hatred kills him, because all things work together for good to them that love God.



We look forward to learning from this amazing book together with you.

BIBLE **STUDY**

In order to complete this workbook you will need the following resources.

- ★ A King James Version (also called *Authorized Version*) Bible
- ★ Strong’s Concordance
- ★ A Bible Dictionary
- ★ A Bible Atlas

Some other things that are very nice to have, although not necessary, are:

- ★ Esther, Queen of Faith and Destiny - by John Knowles
- ★ The Story of the Bible, Volume Four - by Logos
- ★ Other versions of the Bible are also helpful

Before you begin...

Plan

- You should be able to complete the workbook with time to spare by working on it just a bit each day. Don't try to wait till the last minute. You may not get it done in time, and you definitely won't get as much out of it.
- Count the number of days from now until the week before camp. _____
Now, divide that by the number of pages of work in your book. _____
That is the minimum number of pages you need to do per day! _____
- Example: If there are 60 days until the week before camp, and there are 60 pages: $60 \div 60 = 1$. The minimum you would need to do in order to complete your workbook one week before camp is 1 page per day.

Set Goals

- Use the goal chart on the next page to help you stay on track.
- Fill in the chart using the guidelines above to help you set a weekly goal for how much you need and want to accomplish.
- Review your goals with your parents at the beginning and end of each week.

Helpful Hints

- Don't forget to pray to God before you begin. Ask Him to help you understand His word, and He will.
- Use a **PENCIL** so that it is easier to correct mistakes.
- Read, Re-read & ask questions so that you understand the passage you are studying.
- **Read everything in the workbook.** Some questions will be easier to answer if you have read the information given to you throughout the book. (That's why it's there!)
- If you get stuck on a question, put a star (*) next to it and move on to the next. When you have completed the section, go back and try again. You can always ask someone if you get stuck. If you are really stuck, you can always e-mail us (Uncle Greg & Aunt Michelle Robinson) if you need to. Our email is robinson@bigbrand.com.



Mark-It!

All throughout your studies you should **always** take the time to write important information **in your Bible** so that you can remember it later.

Throughout this workbook you will be instructed to write things in the margins of your Bible. You are greatly encouraged, however, to write **MORE** than just the little bits that are required for Camp. Our minds are funny things: we tend to forget things very easily. However, if you write things **in your Bible** you will see them again and again, and remember more about God's word - long after your study of Esther is over, and your workbook is on a shelf somewhere long forgotten.

Finishing this workbook is required to attend Kids Camp, but how much you learn from your study **is up you**.
Enjoy your study of God's Wonderful Word.

I n t e r m e d i a t e P r o j e c t



All Intermediates are required to complete a special project, before arriving at camp, to be shown to your counselor then turned in to your teacher during your first class.

Please choose **One** (1) project from the list below. Some of the project options are quite easy, others are more challenging – choose one that you are comfortable with, and excited to learn about!

Note: you may find it easier to wait until you have completed the workbook before beginning your project.

- ➔ **Court of the Garden at Shushan.** Draw or paint a picture of the king’s feast held in the court of the garden of the king’s palace, as described in Esther 1: 5 – 7. Pay close attention to detail. Include all of the details mentioned in those three verses. Picture needs to be on poster paper (at least 11” X 17”), and in full color.

- ➔ **The Amalekites.** Study the Amalekites in the scriptures: Write a report that shows what happened when they first met up with the nation of Israel, and what happened each time they are mentioned in scripture. Demonstrate how Yahweh had war with them from generation to generation as He said He would. Be sure to include Amalek, the Amalekites, Agag, and the Agagites in your research.

- ➔ **The Providence of God.** “providence [ˈprɒvɪdəns] noun – the protective care of God or of nature as a spiritual power.”
~ Find 10 other occasions in the Bible when God’s providence is shown to us. Write a report that shows how God was working in ways that the world would not be able to see but that people with the eyes of faith would see clearly.

Background & Introduction

Let's Get Started!

Every time you pick up this workbook, or do any type of Bible study, you should always begin with prayer. God WILL help you study His word.

It's a good idea to begin this study by reading the story of Esther all the way through. It's only 10 chapters long: it shouldn't take long to read, and you will be amazed at what you'll learn by just reading it all together, not in little bits and pieces as you do when you're doing your daily Bible readings.

Go ahead: do that now!

One of our favorite quotes from the Bible is one taken from Romans chapter eight. It says, ***“all things work together for good to them that love God.”*** Think about that for a minute! ... It means that God is working in our lives to make sure that the things that happen to us are for our good. That is an awesome thought! The creator of the whole universe is actually directing things in **your** life!

This is one of the most important lessons of the book of Esther. You will see that the things that happen to Mordecai and Esther *couldn't* have just happened by chance but that they **must** have happened because **God made them happen.**

1. In the phrase quoted above from Romans what must we do so that God will make all things in our lives work for our good.? _____
2. Look up “God” in Strong’s Concordance. How many times is the word “God” found in the book of Esther? _____
3. Look up “Lord” in Strong’s Concordance. How many times is the word “Lord” found in the book of Esther? _____

When we dig deeper into this book, however, we find that **the mark of God is found throughout the book:** that God is obviously making things work out for the good of Mordecai, Esther, and his special people, the Jews.

The events of the book of Esther take place at a very important time in the history of the nation of Israel. The nations of Israel, Judah, the city of Jerusalem, and even the temple had been completely destroyed by the Babylonians. The people had been forced to leave their homes and were taken to lands far, far away. Mordecai and Esther were among those captives living in the land of Persia.

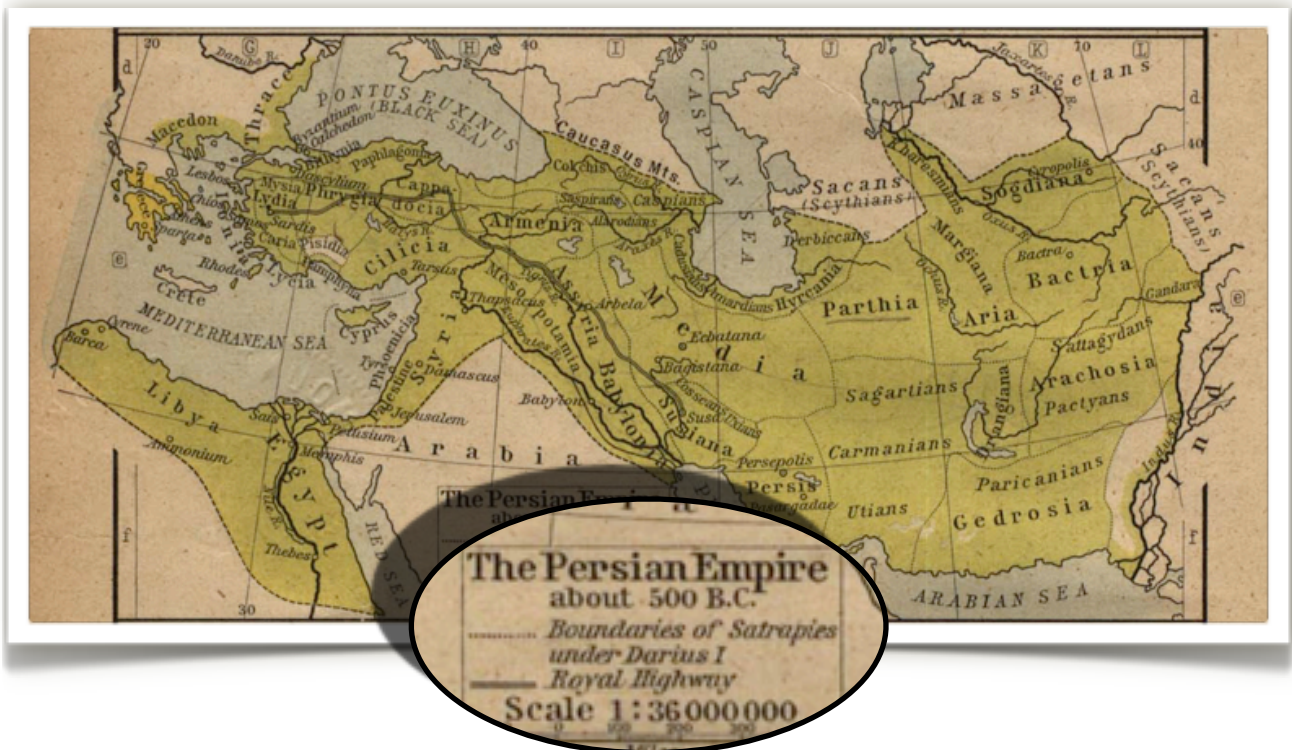
4. The book of Esther begins with the words, “Now it came to pass in the days of _____”



Did you know that **Ahasuerus** isn't a name, but a title? Like the title Pharaoh, or Duke, or Caesar, it wasn't a man's name, but the title he went by. “**Darius**,” and “**Artaxerxes**” are also titles for Persian kings.

5. Esther 1:1 actually gives us a bit of a clue *which* Ahasuerus it was, it says, “this was the Ahasuerus who reigned over _____ provinces, from _____ to _____.”

There were many many kings of Persia of course, but only a couple that reigned over this particular area mentioned in verse 1. The king mentioned here was probably a king named Hystaspes, also called Darius I, or Darius the Great, who reigned over Persia for 36 years: from about 521BC to 485BC.

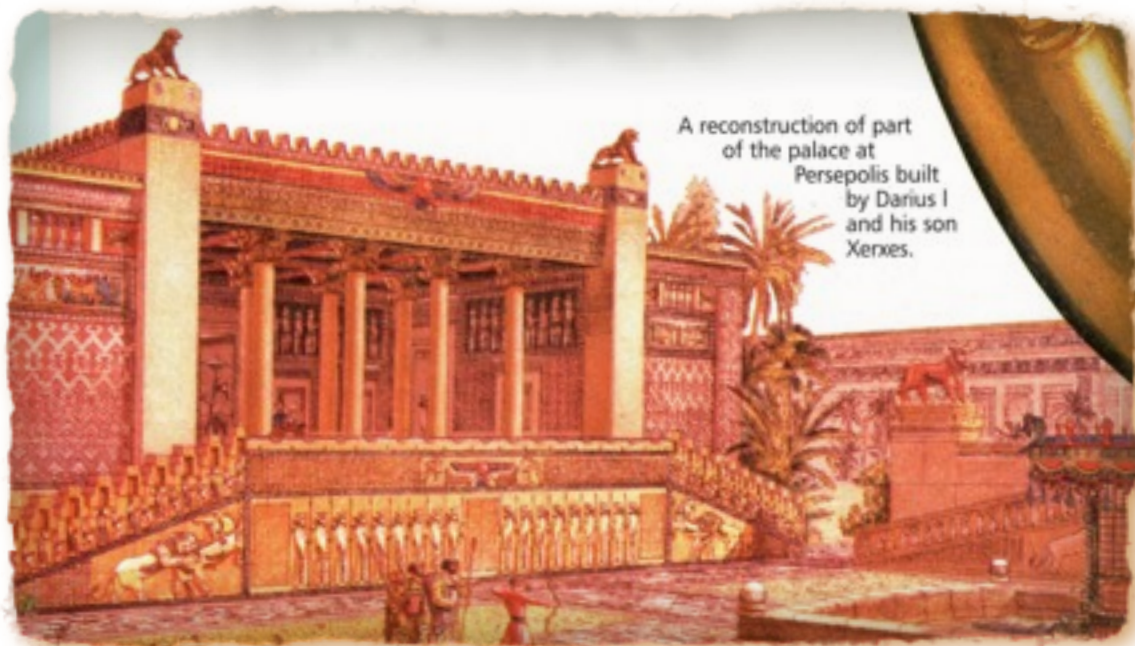


Vashti: Rebellious Queen

Esther 1

6. What was the capital city that Ahasuerus reigned from called? _____
7. Look in a Bible Atlas: How far was that capital city (also called Susa) from the city of Jerusalem? _____

We can read in history that Ahasuerus (Darius Hystaspes) had a rough start to his reign. As soon as he became king there were others throughout the kingdom who thought they should be in control, so he spent the first two years of his reign fighting and overthrowing opposition to his reign. In the third year of his reign, things settled down and Ahasuerus finally gained control of all the countries in the Persian Empire.



8. In what year did the king make a feast? _____
9. From the above historical information, why would it make sense for the king to have a celebration feast when he did? _____

10. Who did he make the feast for? _____

11. How long did the feast last? _____

It is probable that at this feast the king would have invited representatives from all the provinces of his empire. They would have come not only to see the glory of the kingdom but to learn the Persian laws and way of life. There would have been people from as far away as Ethiopia and India coming to Shushan to be impressed with the Persian way of doing things.



Use a Bible Atlas for the following two questions:

12. How far was it from Shushan to Ethiopia? _____

13. How far was it from Shushan to India? _____

14. How long do you think that it would take to walk from Ethiopia to Shushan? _____

15. How long do you think that it would take to walk from India to Shushan? _____

16. Why do you think that the feast lasted so long? _____

A typical day's journey was a 20 mile walk.

17. What did the king do when that feast was over? _____

18. Who was this one intended for? _____



19. What two details are given to us about the vessels that they drank out of? _____

20. How does the feast given by Ahasuerus compare to the feast given by Belshazzar, king of Babylon, in Daniel 5:1-4? _____

21. What did the queen do in verse 9? _____

22. What was the Queen's name? _____

23. Find Ahasuerus's 7 chamberlain's names in the puzzle below, and write their names on the lines to the right.



A H T G I B H A B
Z E T H A R K N I
N A M U H E M O Z
S A C R A C T B T
A B A G T H A R H
P P G A M F B A A
A U N K G I K H Q

chamberlain |' ch āmbərlən|
noun historical
an officer who manages the household of a monarch or noble.

God helps us to understand His plans by giving us signs and symbols and parables. Often an event recorded for us in the Bible is similar to an event that happens (or will happen) later on. **We call these similarities types.** Types help us to understand how God has worked in the past, how He is working now, and how He will work in the future. The Book of Esther is FULL of types. *These types help us to understand what it is our Heavenly Father wants us to learn from the story.*

24. Why did the King command the chamberlains to bring Vashti before the king? _____

25. What was Vashti's response to the king's command? _____


26. We learn later on in the book of Esther that to come into the presence of the king was a great privilege. What did Vashti's response show about how she felt about the king? _____

The relationship of a husband and wife is a type of the relationship between Christ and the ecclesia because a wife is supposed to treat her husband as the ecclesia would treat Christ. This insight gives us even more understanding about why what Vashti did was so wrong.

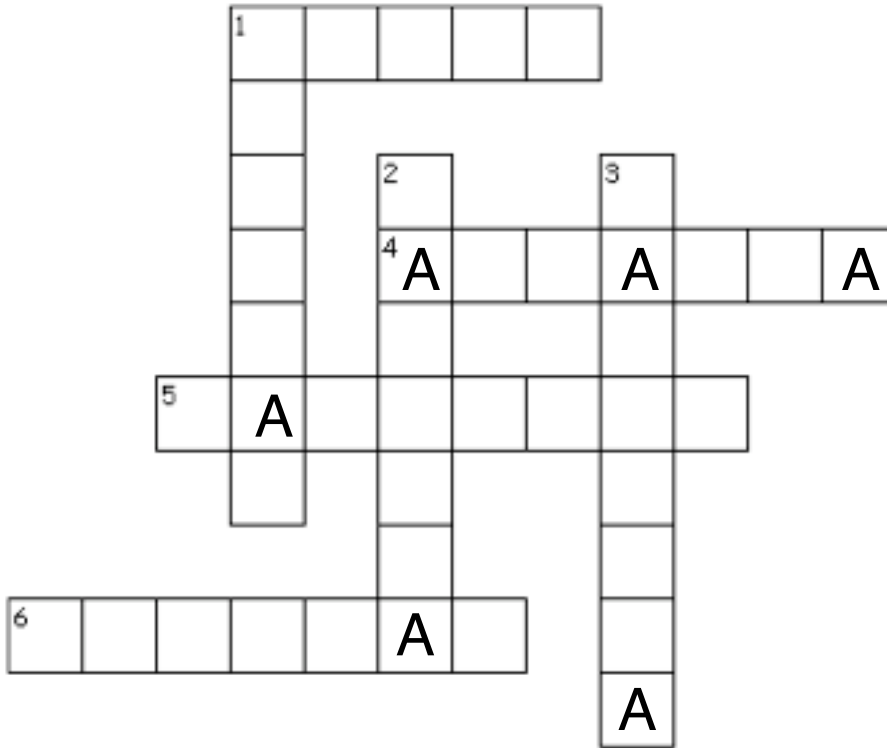
Queen Vashti was a very beautiful woman to look at, her name even means 'beautiful.' But she was so wrapped up in her own beauty that she did not realize that it was her job as the queen to be a reflection of the greatness of the kingdom and of her king: it was only in this reflection that she could be truly beautiful.

27. Explain how Vashti's beauty vanished when she refused to appear before the king.

28. How did the king feel about Vashti's answer? _____

29.  Underline "Vashti" in Esther 1:9 in your Bible, and write the meaning of her name in the margin. (reminder - remember to read the information in given to you in this workbook thoroughly!)

30. In the 13th verse we read about “the wise men that knew the times”. What do you think “knew the times” means? _____
31. Fill in this puzzle with the names of the seven men closest to the king.



32. What information does it give us about these seven men? - Fill in the blanks, “... the seven _____ of _____ and _____, which saw the king’s _____, and which sat the _____ in the _____.”
33. Verse 15 is a very important verse because it shows us why the wise men felt that Vashti was unsuitable as queen. Why was she unsuitable? _____
34. Read the story in 1 Samuel 16:1-7. Explain how this helps us to understand what the king and the wise men were going to be most concerned with in the selection of the new queen. _____

35. Why did Memucan think that the action of Vashti was such a big problem? _____

36. What solution did Memucan propose? _____


37. What did Memucan say would be the end result of the decree according to verse 20? _____




38. Did the king take the advice given to him by the wise men? _____

39. How can we tell from verse 22 that the king wanted to make sure that everyone got the message? _____

40. Mark these types in your Bible at the bottom of the page in chapter 1:
(Use the symbol of an arrow, → as a shorthand way to say “represents”, or “is a type of”)

 Vashti → Natural Israel that refused to reflect the glory of God because she was having her own feast.

 The King → God as the ruler of the world - (remember -no type is a perfect representation: Yahweh is perfect, the King of Persia was not)

 The Feast → the feast of the kingdom that we have all been invited to.

Esther: Faithful Daughter

Esther 2

Esther was a very beautiful woman but it is important to realize that the main reason she was chosen to be the queen was because of her character. In this chapter we see that she was obedient to Mordecai, her cousin and her father, and that she made a positive impact on everyone that she came into contact with. It is soon obvious to all that she had what Vashti lacked - a beautiful character.

History tells us that very soon after the great feasts of Ahasuerus had finished, the nation of Babylon once again rebelled against the rule of the Persian king. Their rebellion lasted for two years, finally ending in the sixth year of the reign of Ahasuerus.

41. Using the information given already in this workbook, and Esther 1:3, 2:12,16; complete the timeline below with the following events: *(some years may be blank, some may have more than one event happen in one year.)* The first one has been done for you.

- 1st Babylonian rebellion
- 2nd Babylonian rebellion
- Great Feast
- Vashti removed
- King calls for all fair virgins
- Esther made queen

Year of Ahasuerus' reign	approx. year	E v e n t
1st year	521 B.C.	<i>1st Babylonian rebellion</i>
2nd year	520 B.C.	
3rd year	519 B.C.	
4th year	518 B.C.	
5th year	517 B.C.	
6th year	516 B.C.	
7th year	515 B.C.	

42. How long did the king wait before he started looking for a replacement for Vashti? (see your timeline) _____
43. Why do you think he waited so long (what was he doing during that time)? _____
44. What two things did the king remember about Vashti? _____
45. What did the king's servants suggest that he do in v2? _____



46. Who was to gather all of the beautiful young virgins to Shushan? _____

47. Who was Hegai (also spelled Hege)? _____
 _____ What was his job? _____

48. In Esther 1:12 we see that even though Vashti was a very beautiful woman, she did not please the king. We also see what made the king angry with Vashti. Knowing this, what type of maiden do you think would have pleased the king? _____

49. What would happen to the maiden which pleased the king? _____

50. Where was Mordecai living? _____



Shushan the Palace

Shushan the Palace was separate from the City of Shushan itself.

Ahasuerus' Palace was located outside of the city of Shushan on a hill standing separate, above the city.

Today the ruins of this palace can be seen on a hilltop overlooking the modern city of Susa.

51. Who else was known as the son of Kish? (*Concordance*) (the answer to this question will be very important later - **remember it!**) _____

52. Mordecai had been taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar at least eighty years before the events of Esther chapter two took place. In Jeremiah 24:6-7, God told us many things that he would do for Mordecai and the captives that were taken from Jerusalem with him. List at least five of these things. _____

53. What was Esther's Jewish name? _____

54. Mordecai became Esther's father and raised her because her parents had died. What relationship was she to Mordecai originally? _____

55. Verse nine says that Esther pleased Hegai. Why do you think he was pleased with her? _____

56. What extra things were done for Esther because she pleased Hegai? _____

57. Why didn't Esther tell anyone she was a Jew? _____

58. Why did Mordecai walk every day before the court of the women's house? _____

concubine |'kă ng kyoö|bîn|
noun chiefly historical
A concubine was a woman who lived with a man in a situation which was similar to marriage, although without all of the privileges of being married. More wives required more wealth, so generally only men of high social status had concubines. These 'lesser wives' did not enjoy the high status of the first wife of the household, and their children would not usually have the same privileges as the children of the first wife.

59. What were the preparations that the women had to do before going in to the king? _____

60. What were the women given before they were called to go in to the king's presence?



61. After a woman had gone in to the king, where did she go to? _____

62. We remember from verse 13 that she was allowed to have anything she wanted when it was her turn to go in to be presented to the king. What did Esther request when it was her turn? _____

63. What was Esther's father's name?

64. Verse 15 tells us that Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her. What do you think the word favor refers to? (hint: Luke 2:52) _____

65. The word for favor in this verse comes from a word that is often translated as 'grace'. Use a concordance to find the phrase, "Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD" Where is it found? _____

66. How long had Ahasuerus been reigning when Esther was taken into his house? _____

67. Why did Ahasuerus make Esther queen? _____

68. What three things did the king do to celebrate his marriage to Esther? _____

"House of the Women"

This was also known as a 'harem.'

Persian harems were famous: perhaps you've read about them in your history books. Persian kings had many concubines, who lived together in harems. The women living in a harem lived very luxuriously and were surrounded by beautiful things, but they were actually slaves. Once you entered into a harem, you were there until you died. You were no longer free, but a slave living in beautiful surroundings. This is why it says in verse 14, "She would not go in to the king again unless the king delighted in her and called for her by name."

69. Who was invited to Esther's Feast? _____

70. Where did Mordecai return to after Esther's feast?
_____ Compare with verse
11; Why do you think that Mordecai no longer walked each
day before the court of the women's house? _____



GATES of
ancient cities were very
important places. In the gates
the people would gather to have their
disputes judged, buy and sell things,
and on special occasions they
would gather to hear the
king speak.

71. Since Mordecai sat in the king's gate he must have had a
position of some importance. What indication do we have,
however, that he was not important enough to have had
access to the king? (verses 21-23) _____

72. Name at least four other people in scripture of who also were in the
gates of their cities. (hint: look up 'gate' in
Strong's Concordance) _____



73. In verse 22 we have another glimpse into
Esther's character. What can you tell about her
from this verse? _____

74. What do you think might have happened to Mordecai if Esther had informed the King
that he was her cousin and that he had raised her? _____

75. Summarize verses 21-23 by illustrating the following cartoon strip:

While Mordecai sat within the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, doorkeepers, became furious and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus...	So the matter became known to Mordecai, who told Esther,
and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name.	And when an inquiry was made into the matter, it was confirmed,...
and both were hanged on a gallows...	and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

76. Types (→) to write in your Bible at the bottom of the page in chapter 2:



Esther → the ecclesia of God: those that are willing to reflect the glory of the king of all the earth.



Mordecai → Christ: the one who nurtured Esther (the ecclesia) and made her queen.

Haman: the Adversary

Esther 3

Of all the villains that we read about in the Bible there are few that make our blood boil as much as Haman. He had a love for power that was so out of control that he went crazy when Mordecai did not bow down to him. He cruelly plotted to kill not only Mordecai but his entire nation. He was so dishonest that he falsely accused the Jews to the king so that he could destroy them. He was so superstitious that he cast lots to find out which day would be the luckiest day upon which to kill the Jews. Unfortunately, these characteristics of Haman's are characteristics of our human nature also; characteristics that each of us has to fight against because if we do not we will be destroyed by them. As Haman was.

77. Read chapter three. In what year of the reign of King Ahasuerus do the events of chapter three take place? _____
78. How many years had passed since Esther became queen? _____
79. Who was promoted to be above all of the princes? _____
80. Haman is called the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite many times in this book. Let's look into this. Who was Agag? (Hint: 1 Samuel 15:7-8) _____

81. In your own words explain what the Amalekites did to the Israelites as recorded in Deuteronomy 25:17-19 _____



82. What did Yahweh tell King Saul to do to the Amalekites in 1 Samuel 15:1-3? _____

83. Read 1 Samuel 15:4-9. How did King Saul break Yahweh's command? _____

84. Haman was an Agagite, which means he was a descendant of Agag. What are some ways that the story of Esther may have been different if Saul had done what Yahweh had told him to do in the first place? _____

85. Haman is the villain of the book of Esther, and Mordecai is the hero. How does Mordecai's ancestry fit with the battle between Saul and Agag? _____

86. What had the king commanded that everyone within the gate do? _____

87. Why do you think Mordecai disobeyed the king? _____



88. What did the servants ask Mordecai? _____

89. Who first noticed that Mordecai didn't bow to Haman? _____

90. What reason did Mordecai give for not bowing to Haman? _____

91. Who did Haman want to punish because Mordecai refused to honor him? _____

92. Verse 7 explains how Haman selected the day upon which the Jews would be killed. Look up “casting of lots” in a Bible dictionary to find out how they made their decision. _____

93. What month was decided on? _____
94. How many months did that give the Jews before the time of their destruction? _____
95. Since God was in control of the way the lots were cast, why do you think God gave the Jews so much time before their destruction was scheduled? _____

96. What might you do if you found out that all of the Christadelphian families were going to be killed in a few months? _____

97. What three things did Haman tell the king about the people he wanted to kill? _____

In the book of Ezra we find that Ezra had spoken to the king about going to Jerusalem to teach Yahweh’s statutes and judgments. He did this in the same year that Esther and the King were married.



We read, “Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him. And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the **seventh year of Artaxerxes the king**. And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.” Ezra 7:6-8

98. Which of the previous statements that Haman made about the Jews do you think Yahweh would have been happy to hear? Why? _____

99. Did Haman tell the king who he wanted to annihilate? _____

100. Do you think that the king would have allowed the Jews to be annihilated by Haman if he had known that it was the Jews that Haman was talking about? _____

101. How much was Haman willing to pay to get rid of the Jews?



102. The ring that the king gave to Haman was a signet ring.



What are signet rings used for? (Bible Dictionary)

103. Esther 8:8 helps us to understand more about decrees made by the king. What do we learn from this verse? _____

104. What title is given to Haman in verse ten? _____

105. Verse 11 seems to say that the king was going to let Haman keep the possessions of the people that he had killed. How do Esther 3:13; 8:11 support this? _____

106. When was the decree to destroy the Jews written?

month _____ *day* _____ *year* _____

When was the destruction of the Jews to take place?

month _____ *day* _____ *year* _____

107. Verse 13 gives us a pretty good idea of how much Haman hated the Jews. What three things did the letters say they would do the Jews? _____

108. How do you think Mordecai felt knowing that his obedience to Yahweh had brought about Haman's decree to kill all of the Jews? _____


109. Where do you think Haman got the idea that young and old should be killed?(Hint: 1 Sam. 15)

110. What did the king and Haman do after the posts had been sent out? _____



111. What does the word perplexed mean (verse 15)? (Dictionary)

112. Taking into consideration the information learned in Ezra, why do you think the people of Shushan might have been perplexed? _____

113.  Mark in your Bible: Haman → sin; the adversary; the enemy of God's people

Mordecai: the Saviour

Esther 4

The Jews throughout the land were terrified as they heard about Haman's decree

Use a **Bible Dictionary** to answer the next 5 questions.

114. What does it mean when it says that Mordecai rent his clothes? _____

115. Why would a person rend their clothes? _____

116. What is sackcloth? _____

117. Why would a person put on sackcloth? _____



118. Why would a person put ashes on themselves? _____

119. Why do you think that Mordecai would do these things in the midst of the city? _____

It is hard to really understand how terrible Mordecai must have felt at that time. He had chosen to obey God rather than man and as a result his life was now in jeopardy. And as if that wasn't enough, he had also caused the sentence of death to fall on all of his people. What made matters worse was there was nothing that he could do about it. It would have been easy for Mordecai to have questioned his belief in God and to have blamed God for the predicament that he was in, but instead he humbled himself in a way that would have been a great example to the Jews of Shushan. By humbling himself he showed that without Yahweh he was unable to overcome his adversary Haman. Mordecai however had great faith that Yahweh would bring deliverance. He knew "that all things work together for good to them that love God."



120. Why didn't Mordecai go in to the king's gate? _____

121. How did the Jews all around Persia respond to this new law? _____

122. What does it mean to fast? _____

123. List at least five other people in the Bible that fasted and the reasons why they fasted.

124. What does the fact that many Jews in the Persian Empire fasted, wept, lay in sackcloth and ashes suggest about their spirituality? _____

125. What did Esther send to Mordecai? _____

126. Did he accept what she sent? _____

127. How do Mordecai's actions suggest that he put his trust in Yahweh and not man? _____



128. What was the command Esther gave to Hatach? _____

129. Where did Hatach find Mordecai? _____

130. What did Mordecai tell Hatach? _____

131. What did Mordecai give to Hatach? _____

132. After telling Esther about Haman's decree what did Mordecai tell Esther to do? _____

133. Why was Esther afraid to follow Mordecai's directions? _____

134. Esther said that she had not been called to go in unto the king for thirty days. Why do you think that that would make her even more afraid to go before the king? _____

135. Explain in your own words Mordecai's warning in verse 13. _____



136. Verse fourteen shows the great faith that Mordecai had that Yahweh would deliver his people even if Esther failed to do her part. List a few ways that Yahweh might have delivered the Jews if Esther had refused to go before the king? _____

137. Verse sixteen shows us the faith of Esther. What did Esther tell Mordecai to do? _____

138. Why do you think that she wanted them to fast? _____

139. Esther said that she and her maidens would also fast. What does that tell us about the influence that Esther had had on her maidens? _____

140. Did Mordecai listen to Esther's command? _____

Golden Scepter

To approach the king without his summons was punishable by death, unless he held out his scepter. This protocol protected the king against assassins and maintained his dignity.

Esther vs. Haman

Esther 5

Esther was now ready and willing to take on Haman. She had been prepared by the example and direction of Mordecai and by prayer and fasting. Mordecai had done his part in taking on Haman by refusing to bow down to him and Esther would do her part by showing the king what kind of man Haman really was. She would not be able to do this herself, she would need the help of Yahweh. First, she would need His help to be accepted into the king's presence, and then she would need Yahweh's help to show the king that Haman really was a traitor.

141. What is the third day of verse one referring to? _____

142. What did Esther do to prepare herself to go in to the King's palace? _____

143. Considering the fact that Esther and her maidens had been fasting, what do you think that she had been wearing before she put on her royal apparel? _____



In the king's house there was an inner court where the king's throne would be. Nearby, there would be an outer court where the princes, attendants, and servants would be. They would be ready to come in to the king whenever he called for them, but no one was permitted to enter without being called for. The punishment for entering the inner court without being called was death. Not even Esther, the queen, nor Haman, the chief of the princes, were allowed into this inner court unless they were called for by the king.

144. It had been thirty days since Esther had been called to go in to the king's presence and now she was going to risk her life by entering the inner court without being called for. How do you think that she would have felt, and why?

145. What did the king do when he saw Esther? _____

146. What did Esther obtain in his sight? _____

147. Where have we heard that phrase before in our study of Esther, and what did we conclude favor referred to? _____

148. Based upon your answers above what do you think made the king think favorably of Esther? _____

149. What did Esther do next? _____



150. What did the king say to Esther? _____

151. Who else in scripture was offered half of a king's kingdom? _____

152. What did Esther request? _____

153. How do we know that Esther did not plan to tell the king about the problem right away? _____

154. Did the king carry out Esther's request? _____

155. Who else did Esther invite to the banquet? _____

156. Why do you think she invited him? _____

157. What did Esther ask the king and Haman at their first banquet? _____

158. How did Haman feel as he first left the banquet? _____



159. How did he feel when he saw Mordecai? _____

160. Why do you think Haman called for his friends to come over? _____

161. Describe how you would have felt if you were one of Haman's friends listening to what he had to say in verse eleven and twelve. _____



162. After reading verses eleven and twelve what words best describe Haman? _____

163. After boasting to his friends and family of everything that he had, was Haman happy? And why do you think that was?

164. His wife and his friends had a solution for his happiness. What was he to do?

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

The word here translated **gallows** actually means a **tree**. The Persians did not hang men by their necks as is usually done on a gallows. Instead they crucified them on a tall tree or on a cross: much like the Romans did to Jesus.

165.

*How big was the gallows Haman had made?
A cubit was approximately 18 inches. Let's figure out how tall this gallows was!*

_____ cubits high
X 18 inches
_____ = inches high

Now divide that number by 12 (inches in a foot) to determine how tall this was. _____

HAMAN'S GALLOWES WAS _____ FEET TALL !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Mordecai Honored

Esther 6

We might think that after the king held out his scepter to Esther that all of her problems were over. But she was still in a very dangerous position: somehow she had to make the king realize that Haman's great plan was actually the murder of her people. She had to convince the king that his most noble prince, the second most powerful man in all the kingdom, was not doing what was best for the kingdom of Persia but was doing what was best for his own pride. So when Esther left the first banquet she was still under tremendous pressure: she was still afraid for the lives of her people and still terrified that she might die because she was opposing the powerful adversary Haman.

166. Esther 6 begins, “On that night...” What night? Did you know that all of the events in chapter five happened on **one day**? Fill in the following chart as it could have looked in the book of the record of the chronicles of the kingdom of Persia for that day.

<i>time of day</i>	Year: <i>12th year of reign</i> Month: <i>Sivan</i> Day: <i>22nd</i>	
Morning~		(Est. 5:1-4)
Mid-Day~		(Est. 5:5-8)
Afternoon~		(Est. 5:9-14)
Evening~		(Est. 5:end of 14)
Night~		(Est. 6:1-2)

What a night it must have been in Shushan for Esther, Haman and the king!

Esther must have fervently prayed for God to deliver Mordecai, her people and herself from Haman. At the same time Haman was having gallows built that were tall enough to show everyone in the city what he would do to anyone that refused to bow him. What a sight it must have been for Yahweh to look down from heaven to see the faithfulness of Esther and the wicked and violent pride of Haman. What a great pleasure it must have been for Yahweh to answer the prayers of Esther by causing the sleepless king to discover the faithfulness of Mordecai and Esther. This discovery led to the fall of the evil adversary Haman.



167. Why do you think the king was unable to sleep that night? _____

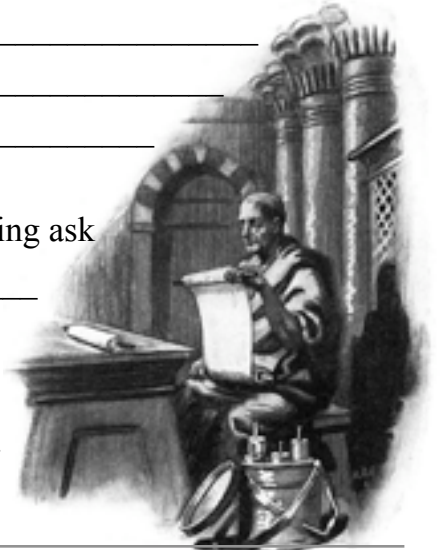
168. What was read to the king at that time? _____

169. What event did they read about? _____

170. Explain how you think these events might relate to our theme: “all things work together for good to them that love God”. _____

171. After hearing about what Mordecai had done what did the king ask his servants? _____

172. What was their reply? _____



173. It is interesting to note that Mordecai had saved the life of the king just before Haman was promoted above all of the princes in Persia and that somehow Mordecai's bravery went unnoticed by the king. How do you think the king's choice of his chief prince might have been different had the king considered Mordecai's faithfulness and his good character? _____



174. Who else had been involved in saving the life of the king? _____

175. Who just happened to be in the king's court at that time? _____

176. Why had Haman come to the king's palace? _____

177. What did the king ask Haman? _____

178. Who did Haman think that the king wanted to honor? _____

179. Why do you think that Haman would have thought that? _____

180. Look up the word, 'pride' in a dictionary - what is its definition? _____

181. In the space below, illustrate what Haman suggested be done for the man who the king desired to show honor.



182. Describe why Haman would have been at the very peak of his pride as he finished speaking in verse nine. _____

183. List seven words that you think would describe how Haman must have felt as he led Mordecai through the street of the city. _____

184. Why do you think the fears of the Jews of Shushan would have been lessened as they saw Mordecai being honored by Haman? _____

185. Where did Mordecai go after being led about the city? _____

186. Where did Haman go? _____

187. What did his wife and wise men tell him at that time? _____

188. What do you think made them feel that way? _____

189. What happened as Haman, his wife and wise men were discussing this problem? _____

Pride Goeth Before Destruction

Esther 7

190. How do you think Esther would have felt going into the second banquet after she found out that Mordecai had been honored by the king? _____

191. What two things did the king ask Esther in verse two? _____

192. What did the Queen ask as her petition? _____

193. What does the Queen ask as her request? _____

194. What did Esther mean when she said that her and her people had been sold?

195. Esther suggested to the king that it would have been bad for the kingdom of Persia if all the Jews had been killed. Why do you think it would have been bad for Persia?

196. What two things did Esther call Haman in verse 6?



197. Circle all of the adjectives that you think would have described King Ahasuerus' mood in verse five: **angry**, content, **ANNOYED**, *delighted*, **shocked**, *surprised*, **HORRIFIED**, *excited*, **STUNNED**, *carefree*, **dreary**, **OUTRAGED**, **upset**, unconcerned, **bored**, refreshed, *appalled*, *tired*.

198. Look up the following words in the dictionary and write their meanings:



adversary |'advər,serē| noun _____

enemy |'enəmə| noun _____

199. How did Haman feel after hearing the Queen's statement?

200. After hearing that it was Haman that had thought to kill the queen and the Jews, where did the king go? _____

201. What had taken place in the garden earlier in the book of Esther? _____

202. What did Haman do? _____

203. As Haman begged Esther to spare his life she must have thought back to the time when her ancestor Saul fought against Haman's ancestor Agag. What had happened at that time?



204. How was Agag finally killed? _____

205. Haman was begging Esther so desperately for his life that he seemed to be trying to force her. Look up the word “**force**” in the Strong’s Concordance and write its meaning. _____



206. What did they immediately do to Haman? _____

207. What does the fact that Harbonah knew about Haman’s plan to hang (crucify) Mordecai tell us? _____

208. What was the King’s response? _____

209. Where was Haman killed? _____

Mordecai: the Righteous Ruler

Esther 8



The story of Esther came down to character in many ways. Esther was chosen over Vashti as queen because she was an obedient, faithful and wise woman while Vashti was a rebellious woman. We see how important character was even more when we compare Mordecai with Haman. As a servant of the king, Mordecai was willing to give his life to save the king from harm. Haman on the other hand, was willing to do anything whether it was good for the king or not as long as it made him look good. Haman just wanted to be important, he

wanted everyone to reverence him and to bow down to him. He wanted it so badly that he was willing to lie and to kill to be the greatest. In the end however, the character of Mordecai was shown to be far superior to that of Haman, and Mordecai was given the position of the chief prince in the Persian Empire. The type of Christ can hardly be missed. Christ, as the servant of Yahweh, will ultimately rule the world because of his life of faithful obedience.

210. Chapter 8 begins, “On that day...” What day? Did you know that everything that happened in chapters six, seven, (and most of chapter eight) happened on one day? Fill in the chart on the following page as it could have looked in the book of the record of the chronicles of the kingdom of Persia for that day.



<i>time of day</i>	<i>Year: 12th year of reign</i> <i>Month: Sivan</i> <i>Day: 23rd</i>	
Morning~		<i>(Esther 6:1-11)</i>
Mid-Morning~		<i>(Esther 6:12-14)</i>
Mid-Day~		<i>(Esther 7:1-8)</i>
Afternoon~		<i>(Esther 7:9-10)</i>
Evening~		<i>(Esther 8:1-2)</i>

211. What was given to Esther the queen that day? (8:1) _____

212. In verse one, what did Esther reveal to the King that he had never known before? _____

213. What is Haman referred to as in verse one? _____

214. What was given to Mordecai by the king? _____

215. What did Esther do for Mordecai in verse two? _____

216. Why did Esther again risk her life by again appearing before the king without being called for? _____

217. How do we know that Esther had a heartfelt love for her people? _____

218. What did Esther ask the king to do to deliver her people and kindred? _____

219. Who else was there with her when she pleaded with the king? _____

220. What did King Ahasuerus tell Queen Esther and Mordecai to do? _____

221. The decree of Haman could not just be undone because it had been sealed with the king's ring. Who else ran into problems with the laws of the Medes and Persians being unchangeable? (hint: lions) _____



222. How would the people know that Mordecai's decree was unchangeable? _____

Esther 8:9 is the longest verse in the Bible!

223. What was the first thing the Jews were supposed to do according to Mordecai's decree?
G _____ T _____ T _____

224. Who were the Jews allowed to slay and cause to perish? _____

225. On what day were the Jews allowed to avenge themselves on their enemies? _____

226. In the Bible colors are used not just because they look nice, but because they have meaning. For example the color **purple** represents **royalty** and **gold** represents **faith**.

What does the color **white** represent? (hint: Rev. 19:8&11) _____

What does the color **blue** represent? (hint: Num. 15:38-41) _____

227. How did the Jews react to hearing this new decree? _____

228. To become a Jew was to become a part of the people blessed by God. We are told that in the kingdom, "... it shall come to pass, that ten men ... shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you."

Where is this quote from? (Strong's Concordance) _____



I N T E R E S T I N G F A C T :

The Greek historian Herodotus records that the first regular postal service in the world was established in ancient Persia during the reign of Cyrus the Great (550 BC-529 BC). They used a system of relay messengers who rode horses and carried mail by day & night. The riders would stop at regularly placed Post Houses, only long enough to get a fresh horse or to pass on their packets of dispatches to another messenger for the remainder of the distance.

According to Herodotus, between 521BC and 486BC, Darius the Great recognized the importance of communication as the first need for the rule of his vast Empire. Thousands and thousands of miles of roads were built for the delivery of mail throughout the Persian Empire.

That God May Be All In All

Esther 9 & 10

229. Fill in the blanks: “Now in the _____ month, that is, the month of _____, on the _____ day...”

230. Where have we read about that date before? _____

231. What was *supposed* to happen on the 13th of Adar? _____

232. What *actually* happened on the 13th of Adar? _____



233. What is the first thing the Jews did in verse two? _____

234. Verse two tells us for the second time that the people feared the Jews. The people were afraid of the Jews because they began to realize that the Jews had the power of God on their side. What other name for the Jewish nation means “power with God”?

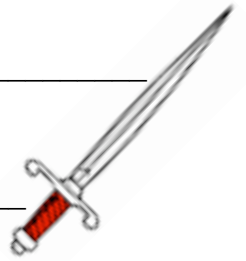
235. What were the Jews gathered together to do? _____

236. Who helped the Jews fight against the Persians who hated them? _____

237. How does what we read about how the people felt about Mordecai in verse four compare to the way they felt about him in chapter 3:4 _____

238. What does the sword represent in the Bible? (Eph. 6:17) _____

239. How many men were killed in the Capital city on the first day? _____



240. What does it mean when it says, “they did not lay a hand on the plunder”? _____

241. Had they been given permission to take the spoil? _____

242. What did they do to Haman’s sons? _____

243. Why did the Jews gather again on the 14th day? _____

244. Verse seventeen of chapter nine tells us that the Jews slew of their foes 75,000 which suggests that not all of their enemies in the provinces were slain at that time. How might this information give us an idea why there was an extra day granted for the decree to be carried out in Shushan?



245. What did the Jews in the provinces of Persia do on the 14th of Adar? _____

246. Use the information from vv. 6-19 to fill in the following calendar pages.
 What did each group of people do on each of these days?

THOSE IN SHUSHAN THE CITADEL		
13 th of Adar	14 th of Adar	15 th of Adar

THOSE LIVING IN THE KING'S PROVIDENCES IN PERSIA		
13 th of Adar	14 th of Adar	15 th of Adar

247. What feast did Mordecai's letters establish? _____

248. On what date did the Jews keep this feast this year (in 2009)? _____

249. The story found in the book of Esther helps us to see how Yahweh plans to fill the earth with his kingdom. Match the following *events of the book of Esther* to the *events in Yahweh's overall plan* from the box below, and write them on the lines following.

★ *Vashti refused to show the glory of her husband.*

★ *Esther was chosen as queen because of her character.*

★ *Mordecai refused to submit to Haman.*

★ *Haman's decree brought death to all Jews.*

★ *Haman was crucified on the tree.*

★ *After Haman's death the decree to kill the Jews was still in force.*

★ *Mordecai's decree brought life.*

★ *The Jews had to follow Mordecai's decree individually to live.*

★ *Mordecai was given power over the whole empire by the king.*

- Christ has been given control over the whole earth.*
- The law of sin and death (if you sin, you will die) effects us all.*
- After the death of Christ the decree of sin and death is still in effect.*
- We each have to follow Christ's decree individually to have eternal life.*
- We will be chosen to be in God's kingdom because of our character.*
- Christ crucified sin when he died on the cross.*
- Christ refused to submit to sin.*
- We can have life through the work of Christ.*
- The nation of Israel refused to reflect God's glory.*

250. Verses twenty-four and twenty-five give us the events that Mordecai wanted the people to remember when they were keeping the new feast. List those memorable events:



251. Describe how the following statements made about Mordecai in verse three of chapter ten apply to Christ in the kingdom to come:

★ He was next unto the king

★ He was great among the Jews

★ He was accepted of the multitude of his brethren

★ He sought the wealth of his people

★ He spoke peace to all of his seed

CONGRATULATIONS!

You're almost done!

252. Turn back to page 8 in this workbook. Look at pages 8 through 50. Carefully make sure you have completed *every* question, and that *every* question is completed to the **BEST** of your ability. Once you have done that, **sign your name** below.

x _____

253. Give this completed workbook to a parent. Have them look at your workbook to certify its completion, then have a **parent sign below** that they are satisfied with your work.

x _____

254. If you haven't already, now is the time to review **page 7** and decide on a **project** to complete. Projects must be completed before camp, and brought to camp. It will be shared with your group and your class. Do your best work!

255. Have a **parent** sign the front cover, confirming that they have reviewed the entire **workbook** AND your **project**.

then...

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S !
YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR KIDS CAMP WORKBOOK!

Don't forget to bring with you to Camp:

- Your **Bible**, complete with Bible-marking from this workbook,
- This completed **workbook**,
- Your Intermediate **project**.