



## Inner Peace

Esther 2:5-6 NLT: <sup>5</sup> At that time there was a Jewish man in the fortress of Susa whose name was Mordecai son of Jair. He was from the tribe of Benjamin and was a descendant of Kish and Shimei. <sup>6</sup> His family had been among those who, with King Jehoiachin of Judah, had been exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar.

Jew or Yehudi appears 46x in Esther

11x in Jeremiah

Exile is the story and struggle of humanity.

Adam

Cain

Abraham

Jacob

Joseph

Moses

Esther 2:7 NLT: <sup>7</sup> This man had a very beautiful and lovely young cousin, Hadassah, who was also called Esther. When her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her into his family and raised her as his own daughter.

Esther 2:10 NLT: <sup>10</sup> Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so.

Esther 2:20 NLT: <sup>20</sup> But Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality just as Mordecai had told her to do, for she continued to follow Mordecai's instructions as she had done when he was bringing her up.

Exile first makes people deeply and distressingly conscious of their distinctiveness. With that knowledge comes the eventual desire to neutralize that distinctiveness through assimilation. - Erica Brown

Esther 4:13-14 NLT: <sup>13</sup> Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. <sup>14</sup> If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"

Mishnah Berurah 686:2 And they called this fast Taanit Esther to remember that God looks and listens to every person in their time of distress when they fast and repent to God with all of their heart just as they did in those days.

The pattern of humanity throughout the bible is one of exile, but the promise of God is the way of relief.

Matthew 16:25 NIV "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

In exile we do what we need to do to survive, while sacrificing the very thing we need to thrive.

Ephesians 4:22-24 ESV: to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

What does exile look like for me?

Lord, I want to turn from the way of exile. Lead me in the way of relief.

*All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.*