

Crown Royal



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If you have picked up this little booklet with the intent of learning about a whiskey, you will be deeply disappointed. That is the wrong kind of spirit as to this booklet's direction. This is about the original spirit that blows where it will, that chooses to speak or to be silent, and who knows the difference and the advantages of each.

So, dear reader, it is not about whiskey, but it is about "The Crown." It is about "The Royal." Let me ask you before we go too far: What makes someone 'royal' in your eyes?

You may be asking yourself, "Who cares, we Americans do not even have 'royalty'?"

I ask the question of myself for several reasons. Many people think that what happened or what was said many years ago has no bearing on our present culture and understanding, but I am not of that persuasion.

My curiosity always get the best of me. Take Moses for example. He says three things about 'royalty.'

Firstly, “You do not need a King.” The founding fathers of the American Colonies apparently agreed.

Secondly, “Human nature being what it is, you will want it because other nations have it.”

Thirdly, “When you select your “ROYAL” at least know what is important so you will select wisely.”

What is really important to you if you were to select a King?

While you think about that, let me turn to the concept of royalty. American may claim not to have royalty, but Americans can seem to be fixated with it.

Permit me to ask a few questions. If you have read this far, did you watch the wedding of Prince William and Kate? If you did, you were just one of the 2.6 billion viewers who did so. That wedding cost \$32 million plus \$35 million for security [some estimates of the total cost to be \$7.9 Billion.]

If not, perhaps you have watched the wedding of Prince Charles and Diane, or that of Queen Elizabeth or the Queen Mom.

Consider the cost of maintaining the Royal Family. As I write this, the exchange rate is 1 Pound = \$1.643 and figures below are in pounds.

- * Communication .5
- * Travel 7m
- * Staff 14.5
- * Property Service 13.7. [Buckingham Palace has 600 rooms]
- * Garden Parties 800,000
- * Catering 500,000
- * Wine & Spirits 400,000
- * Carriages 200,000
- * Security 100 m
- * Duchess of Cornwall 24.5m [Salaries go with these titles]
- * Duchess of Lancaster 13.2m

It is breath taking is it not? To bring all of this closer to home, what do you think it cost to maintain the office of the President of the United States? According to British calculations, the cost of about 10 times hirer than that of the British system.

I shared these numbers with you to give you a little idea as to the scope of "Royalty" using the official title of such and/or the U.S. system in this complex world of government.

Here then is the question which is the pursuit of this booklet. Regarding what Moses has laid out for us as we pursue a King or President, is there anything in these words from which we can learn? Perhaps the words of Moses were spoken so long ago that they are meaningless in our society. Perhaps they had little meaning in the closer years that followed his life. My intent is to merely take a look and some of the Royalty of Israel and contrast that with the words of Moses. I would then ask you the reader to ask yourself, "Did any of the Kings add up to what Moses has laid out. Was there anyone who met the standard?"

What Moses laid out for his people can be found in the Book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 17:14-40. Here they are:

1. Must be from among his own people. He must not be a foreigner.

2. Must not acquire too many horses.
3. Must not return to Egypt to get more horses. You are not to return there.
4. Must not take too many wives or your heart will be gone astray.
5. Must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.
6. When one takes the throne, he must write for himself, in a scroll with his own handwriting a copy of the book of Deuteronomy.
7. He is to carry the scroll with him all the days of his life and read it daily.
8. He is not to consider himself better than anyone else.
9. He must not turn from the law, either to the left or to the right.
10. Do this, and the reign will be for a very long time.

This may all sound silly to we people of sophistication, but before the laughter begins, let's give it a serious look.

The collection of too many horses may seem a bit strange to us [perhaps we should substitute automobiles]. The collection of wives? How many is too many? Somewhere in my past reading I read that the Hebrew standard was eight. Anything over that was greedy. I am not able to document a source for that information. As for gold and silver, do not we admire people who have been able to collect large amounts of it? Maybe the King should not collect his gold and silver from the tax payers.

As for writing out the book of Deuteronomy by hand, reading it daily, and thus being able to reflect God's glory, would that be a great idea?

With this in mind, let us take a look at some of these "Royals" and see how they stack up to Moses's standard.

KING SAUL

I love life! I love stories! In telling you of King Saul, I will be telling you a LOVE STORY. But, I am telling you in advance, a large percentage of you will fail to see the love. The Hebrew bible uses the term "Hesed" to mean the loving kindness of the Lord to protect his people. For years, I did not see it either, so I understand if you do not see what I see. I also give you warning that I will need to describe a few historical things and will be as discreet as possible. History can reveal a fair amount of brutality and the Bible does not back away from it.

My reduction of Moses goes something like this: Do not get a king who is a taker—and interested in himself—but select a giver who gives himself in service to his people.

Why they wanted a king:

Someone has to make the decisions. Up to this point, the prophet Samuel made the decisions. Problem is: Samuel is getting old and his sons that “do not walk in the father’s way and they pervert judgment for bribes.” The problem does not seem to be that they want a king. They problem is: they want a king like everyone else. [Like everyone is the problem].

These people were not to be like everyone else. They were to be a holy people. The root of the word HOLY is to cut. If you were making bread for example and you had your dough all set to go into the oven and you cut a chunk of dough off and said to yourself, “I am going to do something different with this,” then the cut off portion would be your HOLY portion. These people are to be handled differently than everyone else. They are not meant to be “like everyone else.” More about holiness later but that is the root of the word.

Samuel reminds the people that it was the Lord who brought them out of Egypt, who provided for them, who watched over them, who lead them to this land, and

would take care of them. They say: “Never the less, we want a King.”

This is how the first king was selected.

There was a man named Kish. He was a mighty man of power. He was wealthy. He had a son and the son was tall, dark, handsome, and wealthy.

One day, Kish notices that a few of his donkeys have run away and so he says to his son, “take a servant and go find them.” So they go looking for three days and they are nowhere to be found. Saul says to his servant, “Let’s go back. After three days my father is more worried about us than the donkey.”

The servant says, “Not far from here is a godly man. Whatever he says comes to pass. Let us ask him and surely he will tell us. Saul says, we have eaten all of our food and we have nothing left to give him.”

Never-the-less, they go to Samuel. He then anoints Saul, which sets him apart to become king, and sends them home telling Saul that his father has found the missing donkeys.

Later, Saul is given his first big assignment. It is found in I Samuel 15:1-3.

Before jumping into Saul's assignment, let me explain as discreetly as possible the problem. Amalek had heard that the Israel men were circumcised. Thus, whenever they were able, they would capture the men for sport when they were farming or doing other such things. They would then ask them to prove they were circumcised and in the inspection process would take out sword and mutilate them, sending them back home in laughter over their 'covenant with God'. Many never made it back home but bled to death on the way.

Samuel said, "the Lord sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken unto the voice of the words of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling ox, and sheep, camel, and ass."

Now those are pretty strong words. I have not heard words like that since I had my "come to Jesus meeting" with my chemo and radiology oncologists. After all of my chemo and radiology treatments, and then surgery, I thought I was all finished with my treatments. After all, enough is enough. My doctors then sat me down and said, "Enough is not enough! We must kill it all and you cannot afford to have one little microscopic cell live—or

it will kill you.” So, I did what my doctors ordered and fourteen years later I am still here to tell the story.

King Saul on the other hand, slaughters the Amalekites....captures their KING AGAG and keeps the best of all of the sheep, cattle, fat calves, lambs, and anything of value. King Saul chose to cling to anything he found of value.

Samuel hears of what happens and he cries out to the Lord all night. He is furious that Saul did not obey.

Samuel sees what he has done, rather than what he was supposed to do, and Samuel is furious. Samuel, the prophet of the Lord then turns around and says to the king, “As you have made our mother’s childless, so to shall your mother be” and he take the sword from Samuel and slays the King.

Here is my point in all of this: Love often makes us make decisions. Love demanded that Hitler be stopped. Love demanded that other things be stopped.

The love and protection of the Lord does not always happen with the snap of the finger but it does and will happen. Maybe you will be called upon to stop one of the evils in the world...and you will do so out of love.

Samuel separates himself from Saul and the two never see each other again.

On the one hand, punishments and rewards never surface that quickly...but separation seems to start the process and getting it into motion.

Let me start with Samuel: He mourns for Saul...and mourns that he was part of the process that made him King. And the Lord says to Samuel, get up and I will send you to the tribe of Benjamin to the house of Jesse. [Ruth-Boaz] Obed, Jesse. Jesse's grandmother is not Jewish by birth.

Samuel goes to the house of Jesse and as the Lord commanded, he took a heifer and tells Jesse and his sons that he has come to make a sacrifice to the Lord and tells them to join him. The Lord says to Samuel, you will not judge from the outward appearance. Samuel then has the sons pass before him and after the 7th son has done so; Samuel knows that none of these are to be the new King. He asked Jesse, are there more sons. He tells them there is one more who is watching the sheep and he orders him to fetch him and quickly. He says "I will not sit down until he gets there." When the 8th son arrives, the Lord says unto Samuel, this is the one, anoint him.

Saul/David

My goal is not to leave King Saul and go to the next King which is David, but rather to linger a little at this transition period. I want to look at two men and to see what happens to them as life rolls on.

David has been anointed. He is not anointed King but 'set apart' to be handled specially by God. Saul is still king...and as king he begins to show signs that he thinks he is God.

As life goes on, and we all realize that regardless of what happens in life on any given day - life still goes on.

Saul suffers from depressed moods. I am not sure if it is what we would call:

Clinical depression—Melancholy—Bi-polar, or whatever. We all have something. I also make certain assumptions. I assume for example that if 10% of the country suffers from depression then 10% of you reading thus far do as well. I do know that 20% of all women suffer anxiety attacks so I assume that 20% of all women readers of this do also.

In Saul's day, there was no Walgreens or CVS on each corner. They did know that MUSIC is soothing to the soul so when Saul gets into one of his moods, one of his

servants says, "I know a guy who is great on the Harp." It just so happens to be DAVID. I doubt that Saul has any idea who he is. He is just some guy they brought into to play the harp. So every time Saul gets into one of his moves, they call for David.

Later we have the story that you are all familiar with of David and Goliath. David is sent to bring lunch to his brothers on the front line of a pending battle and with Goliath standing out there being an affront to God and his people, young David is disgusted with the whole thing and says to himself and others, "As a shepherd, I protect my sheep from bears and lions and I have slain both. This Goliath is just one more beast to confront and slay and he steps into the field with his trusted sling and does just that.

Saul then wants to know who this guy is. I am not sure when he realizes that it is the same one who has been playing the harp for him when he has been ill.

David's popularity grows and as his grows, Saul's self-esteem begins to shrink.

As his concept of self begins to diminish, he becomes more and more jealous of David and starts to plot against him. He makes him a captain of his army and tells him, if you can kill 200 of our enemy—the Philistines—I will give you my daughter to marry.

This is not a generous offer on King Saul's part. It is a plot to get David killed. His hope is that the Philistines may kill him. If they do not, and he does marry his daughter, all of Saul's enemies may try to kill him to get at the King.

David kills the 200. The problem is, the people begin to sing, "*Saul kills a 1000 but David kills 10,000.*" Saul becomes more furious!

Saul fails to give David his oldest daughter to marry, but he does give her his next daughter. That daughter is totally in love with David.

Saul has a son named Jonathan. Jonathan and David quickly become closer than brothers.

David's biggest supporters are now Saul's own children.

The more he plots to kill David—the sicker he becomes.

David on the other hand has several opportunities to kill Saul...but doesn't. On one account, David and his men are hiding in the back of a cave and Saul steps into a cave "to relieve himself" As he is doing so, David cuts off a portion of the back of his robe and after Saul leaves the cave he yells at him "Saul—I could have killed you but chose not to."

On another account, Saul is asleep on the ground with his army and has his spear and water bottle at his side. David sneaks in and takes his spear and bottle goes up to the top of the hill and yells down, "Saul your army is not protecting you well."

After all of this, Saul ends up in battle, fearful that the enemy will capture him. He does not want that so he commands his armor bearer to kill him. The armor bearer refuses so Saul kills himself by falling on his sword and then the armor bearer does like-wise. It is not only a sad ending but Saul lead a sad life.

And we know from the first king that he does not match Moses' criteria for The Good King...which is someone who does not pursue, women, horses, silver, and gold. Someone who does know and do the will of the Lord, and reflects God's glory.

David and the Power to do Good.

We now pick up with a period of David's life were he has been the King for a number of years. These Jews live in a rough neighborhood. They fight constantly to survive. They are surrounded by neighbors that hate them and hate each other. It is a time in their history where everyone lives in fear and feels threatened by their

neighbors. War is the name of the game and kill or be killed in the rule of thumb. I hope none of you have lived in such neighborhoods but such a life style is quite common in our world.

I recently read Secretary Robert Gates's *DUTY* in which he describes in many years as the Sec. of the Dept of Defense under both President Bush and Obama. His description of Israel sounds the same for today with all of the crazy relationship rooted in "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." Netanyahu of Israel says it is even worse than that. "The enemy of my enemy is my frienenemy."

Just like Sec. Gates in life was consumed by trying to manage two wars that our county was involved with plus all of the other issues around the world—the job is all consuming.

Our story today takes place in one of those "breather times". One of those time where one can catch their breath, sit back, and say "now what?" to "think a little—reflect a little" to ask "now what?" and to ask yourself "what is important?" Everyone wants to succeed in life but I do not think any of us want to success in something that does not matter.

In one of these periods of time, David says to himself, "I wonder what ever happened to the house of Saul?" You will remember that Saul was the King who tried to kill

David. It was also Saul who was his father in law. It was Saul who was the father of David's beloved friend Jonathan. He knows that Jonathan has died.

As he is sitting there thinking of his good friend, he wonders: Is anyone from the house of Saul still alive that I might show him the graciousness {Hesed} of the Lord? So he sends someone to find out. The person he sends returns and says yes. Jonathan had a son. David sends for his friend's son and discovers that the young man is crippled. He then turns over to him all of the possessions of the house of Saul and declares that this man shall "sit at the King's" table and be treated as David's own.

King David and the Power to do Evil.

In the transition between Saul and David we looked at David and saw a good guy, a real-good-quality-fellow. He has shown nothing short of a "good character." For example, in the slaying of Goliath the giant, he was bold, he was courageous, he was mild and meek but he was extremely confident.

His treatment of his King, which was Saul who tried to kill him, was admirable. He certainly had reason to, but he refused to kill his king.

He was a friend. His friendship with Jonathan has gone down in history as one of the great friendships in history.

Then we looked at his remembrance of his friend Jonathan and his pursuit to discover what if anyone still existed in the house. He discovers that his friend who had died, had a son. He has the son set to him and with the son being crippled, he brings him into the King's palace and treats him as his own son. David is a QUALITY MAN!

It is really important to understand that, so much so that I want you to say that out loud: DAVID IS A QUALITY MAN!

Now, before proceeding, I want to tell you about the Chicken Farmer. These Royalty stories need a little comic relief. [But there is a point to the following little chicken farmer story.]

There was a chicken farmer and the government wanted to put a road right through the man's farm. He protested but the government insisted that it would not be a problem for his chickens and if there were they would somehow correct the problem. So, the road was built and now the farmer has a road right through the middle of where he kept his chickens.

Sure enough, the cars were driving too fast and his chickens were getting killed. Each day he would call the sheriff's office to complain and each day the sheriff would come out and post new speed limits and warnings,

but to no avail. To the sheriff's surprise, one day the phone calls stopped. After three days of no phone calls the sheriff got worried and thought the farmer may have died. As he drove out to see the farmer, he saw the cars slow down significantly as they got close to the chicken area. What had the farmer done? Then he noticed it. The farmer had posted a sign that read: "NUDIST COLONY AHEAD, WATCH OUT FOR CHICKS!"

In addition to what I hope you found as comic relief, I hope you see the truth that 'nude chicks' have the power to slow down cars. It also has the power to effect quality men.

We pick up with our story when this quality man goes up to his roof top one evening when he could not sleep and looking down over the city he see a young lady bathing on her roof-top. He says to himself "Hmmm" and he orders his servants to find out who she is. They come back with a report that she is the wife of one of his soldiers who is off fighting in the war. With the husband not home, and not expected home for quite a while, he orders her brought to him.

This is hardly a seduction. At best it is rape. Awhile later she informs a guard to tell David that she is pregnant. How does this quality man, though you may now have second thoughts about his quality, handle a situation like this? What would you expect him to do?

He hopes to solve the problem by sending a message to his officer to have the man sent home. If the soldier comes home then the baby to be born could be passed off as his. The soldier comes back to Jerusalem but rather than going to his own home for the night he sleeps at the city gate. When David hear about it, he inquires about why he did not go home to sleep with his wife. His response is noble, he tells the King that he cannot go home and sleep in his own bed while his men are sleeping out on the ground on the battle field.

David tells him to go home and sleep in his own home the next night before returning to the battle. He does not sleep at his own home the next night either. Thus, David's next 'solution' to the pregnancy problem is to send a message to his commanding office to have the soldier put into the front line where the battle is strongest so that the man gets killed. Are you getting a glimpse of this quality King evaporating before your eyes? As expected, the soldier gets killed.

Later, Nathan the prophet enters the picture. Nathan is the one who taught me the disarming power of a 'story'. He goes to David with the following story:

There was a man in town who was very wealthy, and another man who was poor and had only one sheep. When a stranger came to town, and needed to be fed, the

rich man set him to the poor man's house to have the one sheep that the poor man treated as his pet.

When David heard this, he shouted "That is awful! That rich man should be killed for doing that!!! Nathan then replied, "You are the man!"

Nathan then informs David that the child to be born to Bathsheba and he will not live. That baby does die, but David and Bethsheba do have another child and they name him Solomon.

Solomon.

When we pick up with Solomon, King David is 70 years old and near the end of his life. To assist him, they search out the land for a beautiful young lady and she becomes King David's "bed-warmer." There are categories of women and they range from a wife, to a concubine, to a bed-warmer. A bed-warmer is kind of a nurse, but considered family. The rationale is easy to understand. It centers on the assumption that nothing would make an old 70 year feel better than to have a young good looking women taking care of him.

As an aside note for any men who may be reading this who are 70 years old, I checked and discovered that neither Medicare nor Obamacare will pay for it.

In going from King David to King Solomon, there is a transition base that I wish to touch. David has several wives. One of his sons was a man named Adonijah. [Adoni=Lord] [jah=judge] [adonijah=the Lord is my master]. The bible says he is an extremely handsome man. Have you ever heard of that name before? Do you know anyone who has ever named their child Adonijah? No one does that! However, I now inform you that my great-grand-father, who I have never met, was named Adonijah Leeds.

He was born in 1825 and just 100 years ago, only 20% of the people in America knew how to read. So, maybe my family did not know how to read and just selected a biblical name. On the other hand, because Adonijah is described as extremely handsome and maybe they knew their bible so well that they saw this good looking child and named him Adonijah because of that.

David's son Adonijah, who is the oldest son, merely assumes the role of King when David is getting elderly and ill, and acts like he is. Nathan the prophet, the one who confronted David with his stealing another man's wife and then killing the husband, was someone David kept close to him the rest of his life. That was the smartest thing David ever did. Nathan knows about Adonijah assuming the power of the King and confronts David's wife Bathsheba with the reality of such. He tells her about Adonijah and says, "King David does not know

about it. Let me advise you on how you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.”

So Bathsheba goes to David and informs him and reminds him that he said that Solomon would be king. Nathan then follows her in to support her story. David then makes Solomon King.

This is done by placing Solomon on the King’s mule and ridden through town with the priest and the prophet Nathan anoint him King {Palm Sunday type event}.

When Adonijah hears about Solomon being made King, he is fearful for his life and so he surrenders and presents himself peacefully making no claim to the throne. He then later approaches Bathsheba, and asked her to approach King Solomon and to request that Solomon give him permission to marry David’s “bed-warmer.”

Big mistakes! If one wants something from the King, he should have gone to King. Secondly, as mentioned above, the ‘bed-warmer’ was considered family. Solomon sees through the plan immediately and recognizes that if Solomon married the ‘bed-warmer’ it would give him added claim to the throne [oldest child+married to the King’s bed-warmer]. Solomon declares that today is Adonijah’s last day alive—and it was so.

Solomon then builds the temple of the Lord. It is filled with precious jewels, the finest of wood, and layered with enormous amounts of silver and gold. In creating this jewel of a temple, Solomon's reputation is known throughout the lands. It becomes the 'go to place' and royalty from other countries come to marvel and to bring him great gifts.

Solomon collects huge amounts of silver and gold. He collect horses and builds fine stables to house them. He collects wives. He collects concubines. He develops the reputation as "the wise man" and the story of his ruling with the two women who both claimed the same children became wide spread. For any reader who does not know the story, Solomon had a sword brought to him and threatened to cut the baby in half. One mother agreed and the other one begged to have the child spared. Solomon award the child to the woman who wanted the child spared.

Time for more comic relief?

Those who know me best know that I simply love Jewish humor.

The story is told of the small town in Russia that had young ladies but no young men to marry them. The young ladies mother wrote a common letter to a faraway school and asked if there were two young men who would like to come to their small town and to marry their daughters and acquire the family farm. Two young men agreed. When they finally got out of school and headed

toward the small town, they were attached and one was killed. One escaped and arrived safely in the village. The problem was, there were two mothers each waiting for their new son in law to be to show up and when only one showed, there was no way to tell 'for whom'.

The problem was taken to the Rabbi. He had the young man brought to him by the two mothers and he asked to have a sword brought to him. When he threaten to have the man cut into half, one mother yelled "Yes, cut him half, cut him in half." The other woman yelled "No spare the young man and I will give up my claim." The Rabbi then awarded to young man to the woman who was yelling "cut him in half". The town's people were in shock. "Rabbi, why did you do such a thing?" The Rabbi's response, "Is it not obvious to everyone who the real mother in law is?"

So, Solomon collects silver and gold, wives and concubines, horses, and marries people from foreign lands for political reasons. People looked at Solomon as a great King. In the end, it is revealed that he was a fool and his kingdom is torn asunder.

Do you dear reader recall what Moses said?

Queen Esther.

The truly bad kings that followed Solomon are a dime a dozen. The land of Israel is cut into two and destroyed. The Babylonians take over and eventually the land become a very small part of the vast empire of Persia. The Persian Empire includes part of India and Africa and

all of the Middle East. The empire is so big that it is ruled by one KING and several smaller kings who report to the main one.

One year, the main KING throws a party for all the kings on the island and this party lasts a very long time. It goes on for months. Near the end when the King is entertaining all of the lesser kings and the Queen is entertaining all of the women, the King sends for the Queen so he may introduce her to all of the kings.

His wife, the Queen then does the unthinkable. She says “No”... There is a lot of power in the word ‘no’ but there are also significant consequences.

Not only the King, but the lesser kings simply cannot handle this. The solution is rather simply: Replace the Queen and search the Persian Empire for a new Queen. After a “Miss Persian” contest, the King settles his selection by choosing a young woman by the name of Esther.

When the Babylonian empire invade Israel and Nebuchadnezzar took many of the people back to Babylon—families of value, craftsmen, scholars, artist, musicians, young strong men who would serve the military well were taken away. The elderly were left behind. Esther was one of those taken without her

parents as a young child. In Babylon she was raised by her uncle Mordecai.

After she becomes Queen Esther, her uncle overhears people plotting against the king and he tells Esther—she tells the king and those who were plotting are captured and hung.

One of the lesser kings that the KING begins to favor is a man named Haman. As the KING favors Haman, Haman becomes full of himself and becomes inflated. As he walks in and out of the City gate, people stand to honor him and to show respect, but the man Mordecai does not. Haman hates the man for that. Mordecai will not stand and bow to him because he is a Jew and thus Haman hates not only Mordeica but all Jews and he is determined to destroy the all in the Persian Empire. So Haman goes to the big KING and explains the situation and the KING tells him to do as he sees fit.

A letter is set out throughout the Kingdom that all Jews are to be killed. Mordecai gets wind of this early on and tells Esther.

She explains that she simply cannot go to the King. The system works the other way around. One is called to the King. He explains that if all her people die that she will not escape either. Then he tells her: *“Perhaps you were born for such a time as this!”*

ESTHER then gives him instructions:

Go and gather all the Jews in town and pray and fast for three days, and I will do likewise along with my maidens that take care of me. Then I will go to the King and if I die so be it.

She waits in the courtyard of the king but does not make the error of outwardly attempting to see him. The King sees her, and extends in the golden scepter, which allows her to make a request.

Her request? She graciously asked the King if he and Haman to come to dinner at her place. He accepts. He tells Haman and Haman gets all puffed up. He and the King are going to dinner at the Queen's palace.

That night the King asked: Esther was is your request? She is not ready yet. She is still waiting for "the God moment". So she says: "I would like you and Haman to come again to my palace for dinner tomorrow."

Haman is now fully inflated. "The Queen requested that only the King and I dine with her again tomorrow" he tells his wife.

Here comes the God moment.

The king cannot sleep.

He awakens in the night and asked his servant to read to him from the *Chronicles of the Kingdom*. The servant reads about the man Mordecai who reported to the King about the plot to kill him. And he says to his servant, "What did we ever do to reward that man?" The servant says: "Nothing."

At the same time, Haman is in the courtyard and telling everyone that the Queen had just had the King and him for dinner last night and that he has all this honor. Feeling puffed with all this honor, he confidently declares that this man Mordecai needs to be hung. His wife encourages him to build the gallows and get permission to hang him.

So that morning, the King sees Haman in the courtyard and calls to him. "Haman, if I wanted to really reward someone, what would you recommend that I do?" Haman thinks the King wants to reward him, so he says:

"I would dress him in your finest apparel and put him on 'your' horse. I would put a crown on his head and get your most trusted and noble princes to parade him throughout the city."

"Great idea" says the King. "Get Mordecai and do just that."

At dinner that night, the King says to Esther, "what is your request?" and she says, "*LET MY LIFE BE GIVEN ME AND MY PEOPLE, FOR WE HAVE BEEN SOLD.*"

The king then says, "Who is this who has done such a thing?" She says "This wicked Haman."

Haman is then taken out and hung on the gallows that he had created for Mordecai and the Jews rejoice throughout the kingdom.

That was a story of the Queen who never intended to be a Queen but became so in the most unlikely way. Perhaps, for such a time!

Now, back to Moses. You have read what Moses said, and I have given you a few better known Kings to look at. I even gave you Queen Esther. Have you seen any wisdom in Moses that could be applied to your selection of who you would wish to 'crown' for a political office?

How critical is the role of "self-indulgence" play in these crowning positions that we vote for? What Kings/Queens were givers and which ones were takers. Did any of them reflect God's glory? Did any of them reveal they were more interested in their own glory?

What about your life and ‘King of your castle’ or the ‘Queen of your domain’? Do the words of Moses have anything to say to you?

Then there was Mordecai who said, ‘Perhaps you were born for such a time as this.’ Looking at your circle of life, the burdens you now carry, and the situation in which you find yourself, ‘perhaps you were born for such a time as this.’

