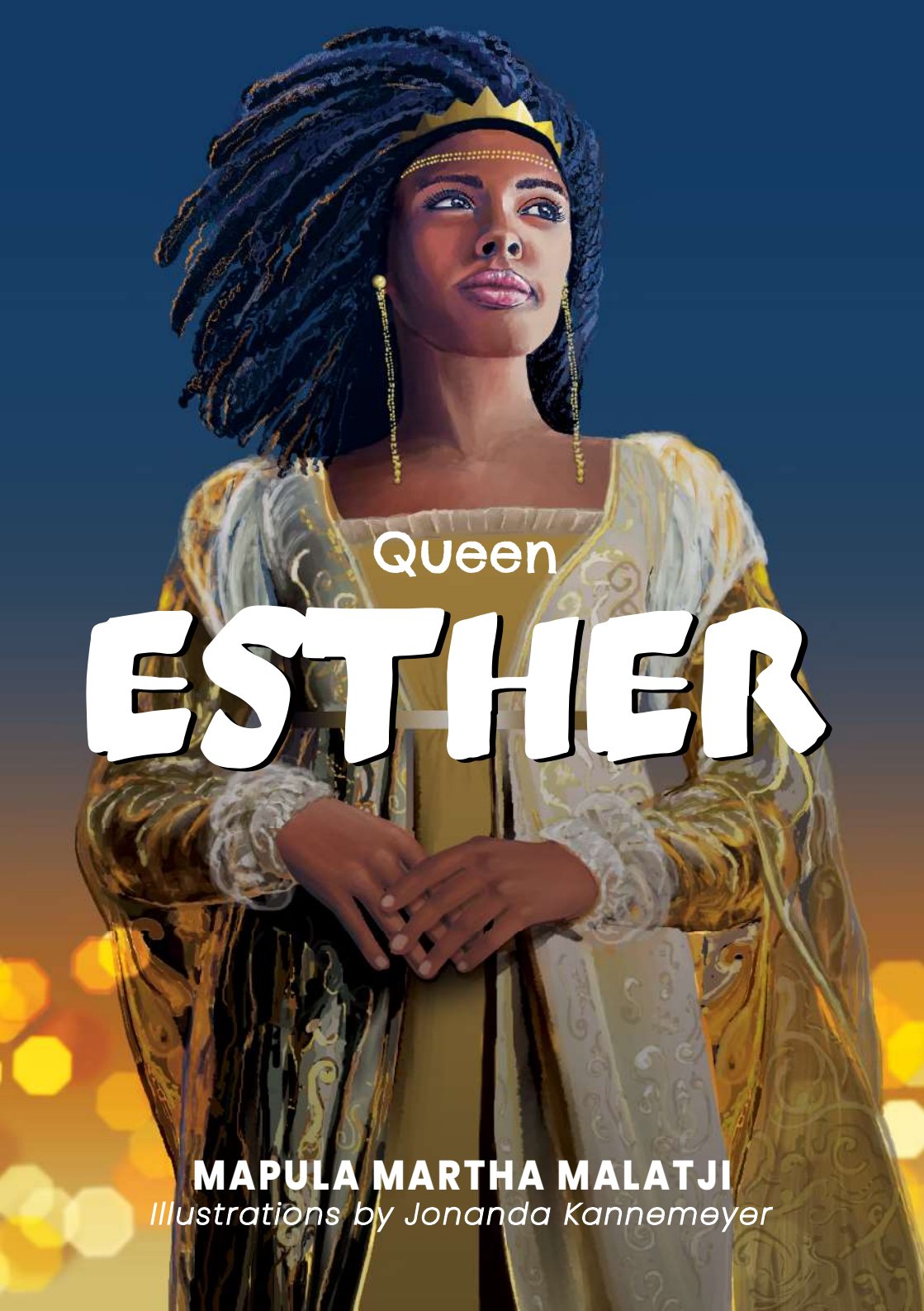
Queen
ESTHER
MAPULA MARTHA MALATJI
Illustrations by Jonanda Kannemeyer

QUEEN ESTHER

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OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE STORY

THE BOOK OF ESTER

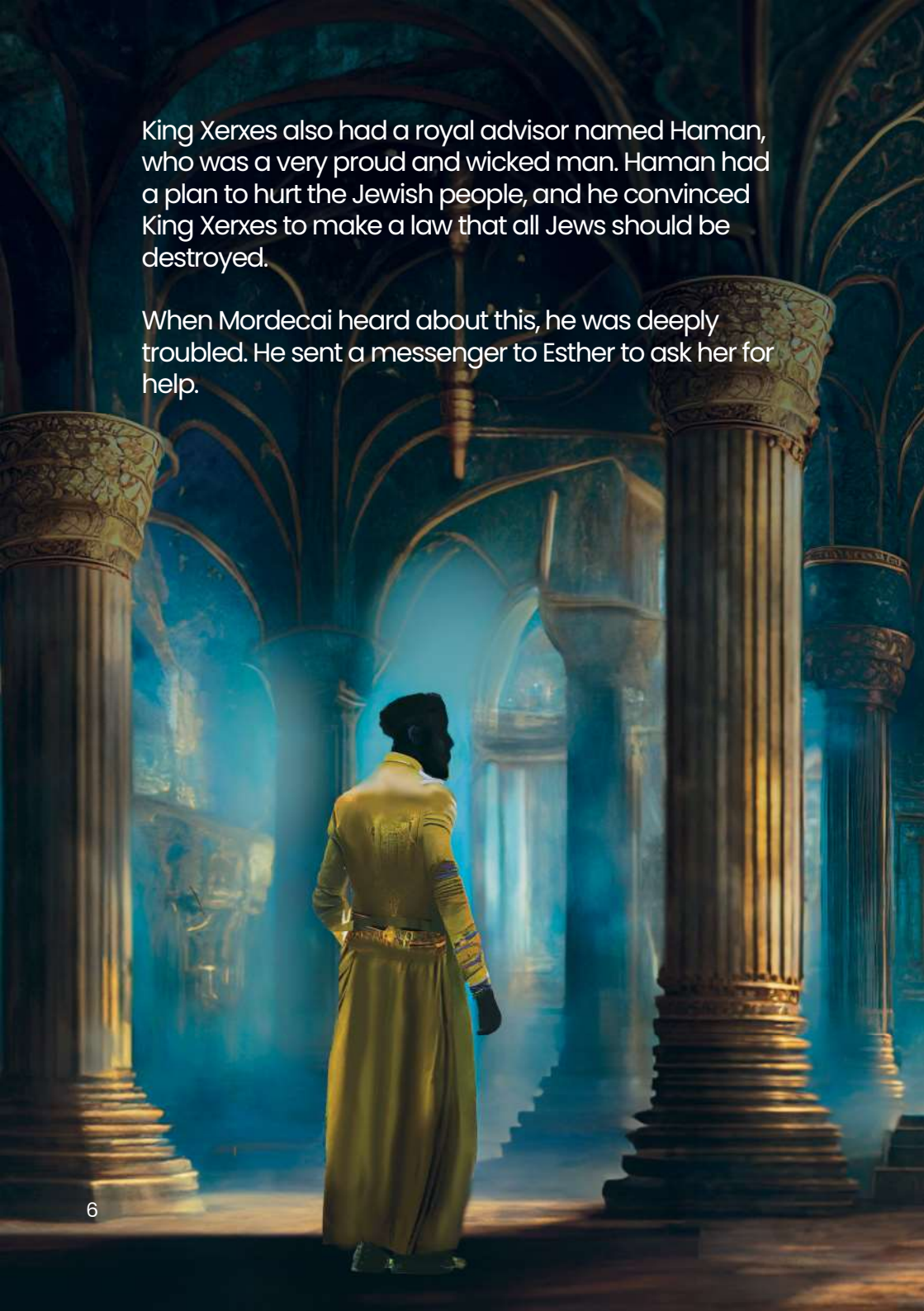
Queen

ESTHER

In ancient times there was a King called Xerxes. His kingdom stretched from India to Ethiopia. The King appointed leaders to search for a young woman to become the Queen.

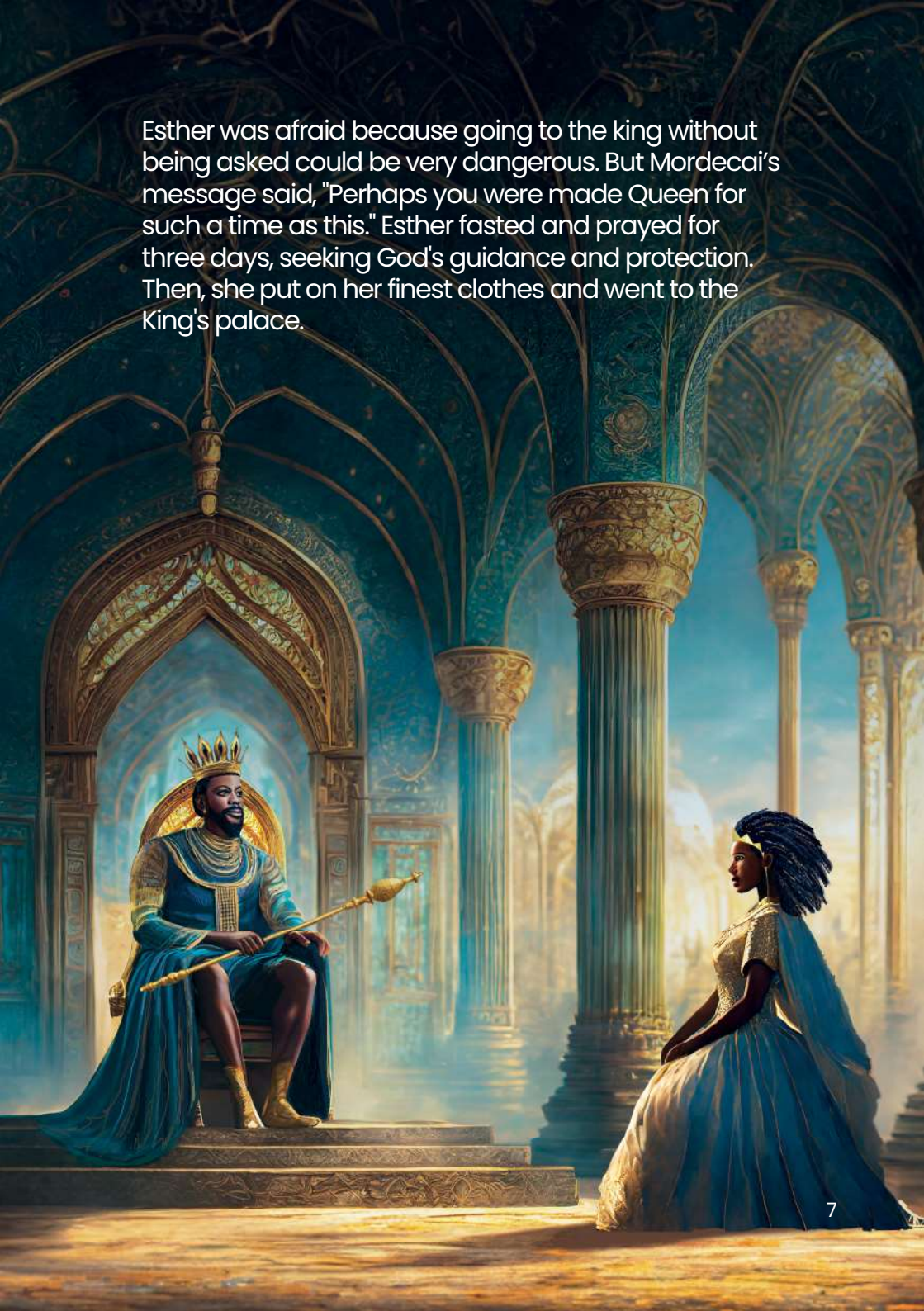
In the same kingdom, there was a beautiful young woman named Esther. Esther was an orphan who was raised by her cousin Mordecai. They were both Jewish. Esther was taken to the King's palace and she pleased him and won his favour, but she did not tell anyone she was Jewish.

At that time, Mordecai sat at the King's gate and heard some officers plotting to kill the King. He told Esther about the plot, and she told the King. The King's life was saved and the officers were punished.



King Xerxes also had a royal advisor named Haman, who was a very proud and wicked man. Haman had a plan to hurt the Jewish people, and he convinced King Xerxes to make a law that all Jews should be destroyed.

When Mordecai heard about this, he was deeply troubled. He sent a messenger to Esther to ask her for help.



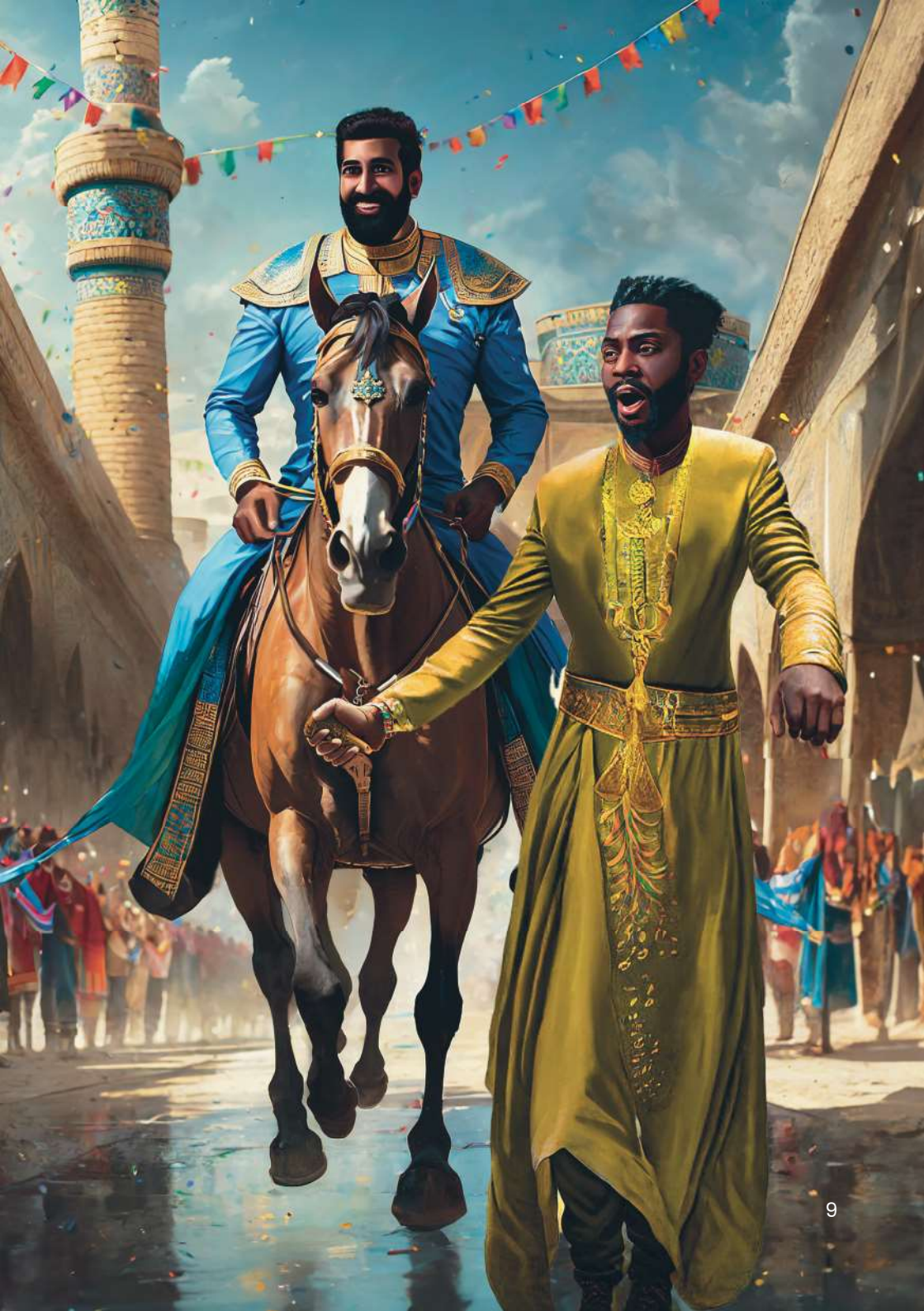
Esther was afraid because going to the king without being asked could be very dangerous. But Mordecai's message said, "Perhaps you were made Queen for such a time as this." Esther fasted and prayed for three days, seeking God's guidance and protection. Then, she put on her finest clothes and went to the King's palace.

When King Xerxes saw Esther, He was pleased and asked her what she wanted. Instead of telling the King what she wanted, she invited the king and Haman to a banquet she had prepared. At the banquet, the king asked Esther again what she desired, and she asked that they join her for another feast the next day.

Haman was filled with pride, thinking he was very important because Queen Esther invited him to the banquets. But he also hated Mordecai because Mordecai refused to bow down to him. So, Haman decided to have Mordecai killed.

That night the King couldn't sleep, and he asked for the royal records to be read to him. He read about Mordecai's good deed in saving the King's life and he wanted to honor Mordecai. When King Xerxes was thinking of how to honor Mordecai, Haman was in the palace.

The King asked Haman what should be done to honor someone special. Haman, thinking the King meant him, said they should have a grand celebration. To Haman's surprise, the king ordered Haman to honor Mordecai instead.



During the second banquet, Esther finally revealed her request. She told the King about the terrible decree against her people and begged for their lives. The King was angry with Haman for deceiving him, and he ordered Haman to be punished.

In the end, the Jewish people were saved.

Haman was punished, and Mordecai was honored. Esther's bravery and faith saved her people from a great tragedy.

Prayer

Dear Lord, even when things seem impossible, please help me to pray and trust You for wisdom and guidance.

Questions

1. Who was the beautiful woman who impressed the King?
2. How was the life of King Xerxes saved?
3. Do you think Esther was brave? Why?
4. How did Haman behave when he heard about the banquet for Mordecai?
5. If you dislike someone, what can you do about it?

Take Hatred out of the villages!

Once upon a time in the village of Mphorogotlho, there was a great flood that lasted for five days without stopping. People were carried away by the water. A young girl named Sebotsana lost her parents in the flood. The girl and her uncle Elijah survived but Sebotsana hurt her back and ended up in a wheelchair. They were not from South Africa, and their language was different from the people in the village. They were taken to an old, empty building in the village.

After the accident, Sebotsana was taken to the hospital. The nurses asked her where she came from. Some treated her badly because she was a foreigner. Sebotsana noticed that the hospital was worn down and the nurses' clothes looked old. She wondered if this was what made them unhappy?

In time, Elijah found work as a mechanic. He also knew how to sew. He taught Sebotsana how to sew as well. He enrolled her in a village school. On the first day, the school children called her names to make fun of her. She was very sad, so she dropped out of school but she kept sewing.

Later, Elijah heard on the radio that the local hospital needed nurses' uniforms. He tried to find dressmakers to help. Sebotsana went to the hospital to see what she could do. When she arrived, the nurses did not listen to her. She took some of her sewn clothes to the hospital. The nurses loved her work, and began to treat her differently.

A bit later, a group of young men gathered in the village to harm Elijah and other foreigners. While Elijah was fixing cars, he heard that foreigners were being fired. He lost his job. When Sebotsana heard about this, she reported it to the nurses who were kind to her.

The nurses protested against this behavior, saying that people of all languages should have help, and should be treated with respect and care.

During this time, Sebotsana made uniforms for the nurses, mechanics and for the local school children. When Elijah delivered the clothes, the people saw that Sebotsana and Elijah used their skills to help the village even though they were treated badly. Sebotsana healed from her injuries and later married one of the doctors. Together they worked to improve the hospital and the school in Mphorogotlho.

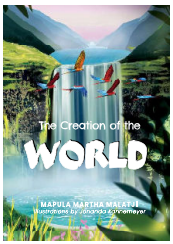
Prayer

Our heavenly Father, thank You for giving everyone gifts in life. Teach us to be grateful for everyones gifts.

Questions

1. What ended the lives of Sebotsana's parents?
2. Should we discriminate against people by language? Why do you say that?
3. What shows that Elijah cared for Sebotsana?
4. How did Sebotsana and Elijah help the villagers?
5. What would you like to be when you grow up?

Queen Esther *is one of 20 books featuring 10 Old Testament (OT) and 10 New Testament (NT) stories, each with a practical reflection story based on the Bible story.*



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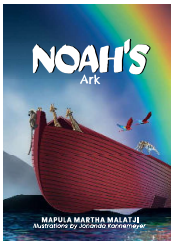

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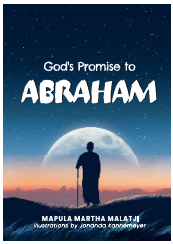

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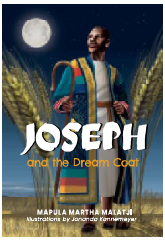

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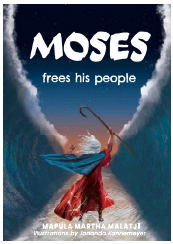

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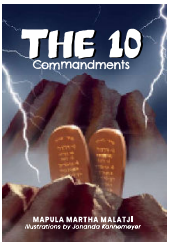

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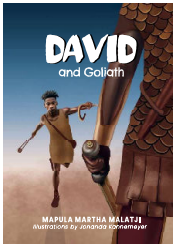

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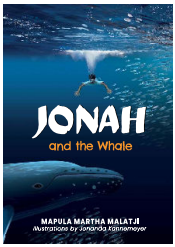

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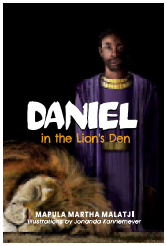

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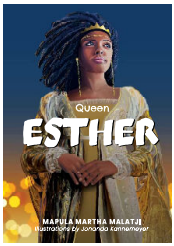

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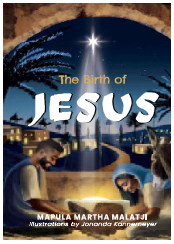

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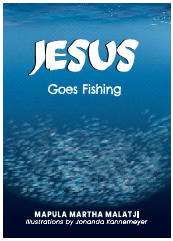

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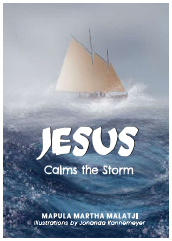

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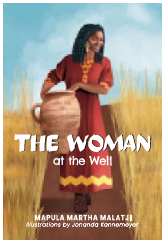

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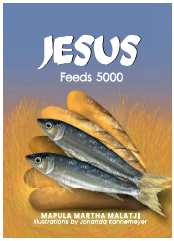

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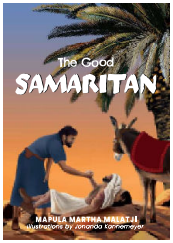

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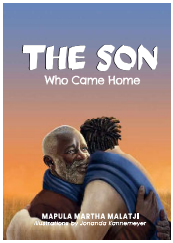

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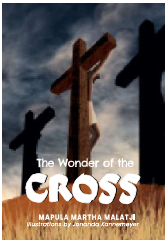

NT Book_9

NT Book_10

Queen Esther

In this book, we will learn how a humble young Jewish girl became the Queen of a large Kingdom. We will also learn how she and her uncle saved the King's life, and how they exposed an evil man's plot to punish all of the Jewish people.

Take Hatred Out of the Villages!

In this story, we will learn about Sebotsana, who lost her parents in a foreign land. We will learn how people of all languages have gifts and talents that God has given them, and that everyone should be accepted, no matter where they come from or what their background is.

9781776475902
English