



#### Chess Objective:

Capture the king, the most valuable piece on the board.

Chess Playing Principles:

Stage 1: The opening

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Stage 2: The middle game

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Stage 1: The opening

Stage 2: The middle game

Stage 3: The end game – checkmate!



## The opening move: Esther is promoted to be the new queen

#### Esther 1 vs. 10 -12

On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas—to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at.

#### Proverb 31 vs. 3-4

- 4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Or for rulers to desire strong drink,
- <sup>5</sup> For they will drink and forget what is decreed, And pervert the rights of all the afflicted.

#### Esther 1 vs. 10 -12

But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

#### Esther 2 vs. 7

Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.

#### Esther 2 vs. 17

Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.





### The middle game: Queen Esther is on the move

When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

# There are some battles that can only be won by prayer and fasting!

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The end game:
Queen Esther checkmates her enemy!

So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet, and as they were drinking wine on the second day, the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request. For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king."

King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?" Esther said, "An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen.



### CHECKMATE!

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