THE QUESTION

Why did Queen Esther say she hated the bed of the uncircumcised?

Asked by a THF member on October 28, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 6 numbered quotations · the 14 early Christian passages and 119 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/why-did-queen-esther-say-she-hated-the-bed-of-the-uncircumcised

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

Her words come from Esther's prayer, found in the Greek Old Testament but not the Hebrew. In Scripture, uncircumcised marks someone outside God's covenant. So Esther, married to a pagan king, was telling God her heart belonged to Him and His people. Early writers praise her faith, fasting and humility in that prayer.

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POINT 1 OF 6

Esther's prayer is in the Greek Old Testament

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen notes that the Greek copies of Esther used by the church contain prayers by Mordecai and Esther that the Hebrew text lacks. He still says they are fit to build up the reader. Esther's words about the bed belong to that prayer.

1 “In the Book of Esther, neither the prayer of Mardochaios nor that of Esther is found in the Hebrew, though both are fitted to edify the reader.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Exhortation to Martyrdom* 1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 12, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 6

Uncircumcised meant outside God's covenant

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria explains the prophet's phrase about the uncircumcised as meaning unclean in body and soul. He applies it to strangers who would not believe. So the word points to someone outside God's people and worship, not simply a foreigner.

2 “Therefore the Lord says, “Every alien son is uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh,” that is, unclean in body and soul.”

later in the same passage

“He calls those who would not believe, but would disbelieve, strangers.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 4.25 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 7, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 6

The deeper problem was an unbelieving heart

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Clement also quotes Jeremiah, who says even God's own people could be uncircumcised in heart. The real issue behind the word is unbelief and disobedience toward God, which helps explain why Esther grieved over a pagan marriage.

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3 “All the nations are uncircumcised, but this people is uncircumcised in heart."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Instructor* 1.9 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 8, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 6

Esther prayed in fasting and humility

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Rome says Esther faced great danger to save the twelve tribes. She did it by fasting and humbling herself before God, and God answered. Her words in prayer show where her loyalty lay.

4 “Esther, too, being perfect in faith, exposed herself to no less danger in order to deliver the twelve tribes of Israel from impending destruction.”

later in the same passage

“Through fasting and humility, she entreated the everlasting God, who sees all things; and He, perceiving the humility of her spirit, delivered the people for whom she had faced peril.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 14, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 6

Her faith, not her crown, saved Israel

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria calls Esther made perfect by faith. He credits her prayer, not her place as queen, with stopping the decree against her people. This fits a prayer in which she sets herself apart from the king's world.

5 “A woman alone, weakened by fasting, held back ten thousand armed hands. By her faith she canceled the tyrant's decree.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 4.19 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 6, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
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POINT 6 OF 6

Believers should not choose unbelieving spouses

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Tertullian, writing about Christians, says no Scripture allows a believer to choose an unbelieving spouse. But one already married when called by God's grace should stay. Esther's situation is closer to the second case: she stayed, yet grieved before God.

6

> "For there is no Scripture that holds out a license for this deed."
>
> *later in the same passage*
>
> "It shows that it is the duty of one who was already living in marriage with an unbelieving woman, and has now been converted by the grace of God, to continue with his wife."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *To His Wife* 2.2 (c. 196–220 AD) *THF's updated English* **Source 10, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- None of these passages quotes or explains Esther's exact words about the bed.
- They do not say how Esther came to be married to the king or whether she had any choice.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 14 early Christian passages and 119 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–14, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 15–92, in Bible order), then 41 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

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EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *14 passages from 8 writers*

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 1*

1 *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 3) “also speaks about our ears, how He has circumcised both them and our hearts. The Lord says in the prophet, "In the hearing of the ear they obeyed me." And… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 2–4*

2 *First Apology* (on point 3) “he spoke as follows: “Israel is uncircumcised in heart, but the Gentiles… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 3) “have now need of a second circumcision, though you glory greatly in the flesh… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 3) good, rich, and fertile unplowed ground is in your hearts. 'For behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord, 'that I will visit all those who are circumcised only in… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 5*

5 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 2) This man received the covenant of circumcision after being justified by faith while he was still uncircumcised, so that he could represent both covenants. He became the father of all… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 6–9*

6 *Stromata* 4.19 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “again, Esther perfect by faith, who rescued Israel from the power of the king and the satrap's cruelty: a woman alone, afflicted with fastings, held back ten thousand armed… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Stromata* 4.25 (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** “thus says the Lord, Every alien son is uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh (that is, unclean in body and soul): there shall not enter one of the strangers… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Instructor* 1.9 **Quote 3, page 3** “Your ears are uncircumcised." Jeremiah 6:10 O blessed forbearance… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Stromata* 1.21 (1885 English; on point 1) “the captivity lived Esther and Mordecai, whose book is still extant, as also that of the Maccabees… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · source 10*

10 *To His Wife* 2.2 **Quote 6, page 4** days a certain woman took her marriage outside the bounds of the Church and joined herself to a Gentile, and when I remembered that others had done this in former… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 11–12*

11 *Commentary on Matthew* 13 (on point 1) to them and worship them." Deuteronomy 4:19 And you will find something similar in the Book of Esther, spoken about her, when it is written, "stripping off all her… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Exhortation to Martyrdom* 1 **Quote 1, page 2** “the Book of Esther, neither the prayer of Mardochaios nor that of Esther… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · source 13*

13 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) “Esther, and Mordecai, and Judith, by fasting, escaped the insurrection of the ungodly Holofernes and Haman… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 14*

14 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 4, page 3** “her country and people under siege; and the Lord delivered Holofernes into the hands of a woman. Esther, too, being perfect in faith, exposed herself to no less danger in… [continues online] **read ›**

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THE BIBLE *78 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

15 **Genesis 17:14** And the uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin on the eighth day, that person shall be utterly destroyed from his family, because he has broken my covenant.” **read ›**

16 **Exodus 4:25** Then Zipporah took a stone and circumcised the foreskin of her son; and she fell at his feet and said, “The blood of the circumcision of my child has stopped.” **read ›**

17 **Exodus 4:26** So he departed from him, because she had said, “The blood of the circumcision of my child has stopped.” **read ›**

18 **Exodus 12:48** And if a resident foreigner comes to you to keep the Passover to the Lord, you shall circumcise every male belonging to him, and then he shall come near to keep it; and he shall be like the native-born of the land. No uncircumcised person shall eat of it. **read ›**

19 **Leviticus 12:3** And on the eighth day she shall circumcise the flesh of his foreskin. **read ›**

20 **Leviticus 15:4** Every bed on which the man with the discharge lies is unclean, and every article on which the man with the discharge sits shall be unclean. **read ›**

21 **Leviticus 15:5** Any man who touches the bed of the man with the discharge shall wash his garments and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. **read ›**

22 **Leviticus 15:16** A man from whom seed goes out shall bathe his whole body in water, and be unclean until evening. **read ›**

23 **Leviticus 15:21** Whoever touches her bed shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water, and be unclean until evening. **read ›**

24 **Deuteronomy 23:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

25 **Deuteronomy 23:10** If there is among you a man who is not clean because of a discharge in the night, he shall go outside the camp, and he shall not come into the camp. (Septuagint Deuteronomy 23:11 (Deuteronomy 23:10 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

26 **Deuteronomy 28:43** The resident foreigner who is among you shall rise higher and higher, but you shall come down lower and lower. **read ›**

27 **2 Samuel 14:13** The woman said, “Why have you devised such a thing against the people of God? Or is this word from the king’s mouth as a trespass, so that the king does not bring back his banished one? **read ›**

28 **1 Kings 3:16** Then two women who were prostitutes appeared before the king and stood before him. **read ›**

29 **1 Kings 8:41** And as for the foreigner who is not of your people, he too, **read ›**

30 **Ezra 9:7** From the days of our fathers we have been in great trespass until this day; and for our acts of lawlessness we, our kings, and our sons have been handed over into the hand of the kings of the nations, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder, and to the shame of our faces, as it is this day. **read ›**

31 **Esther 1:12** But Astin the queen would not obey him and come with the eunuchs; and the king was grieved and angry, **read ›**

32 **Esther 1:17** for he has told them the words of the queen and how she defied the king. Therefore, just as she defied King Artaxerxes, **read ›**

33 **Esther 1:18** so today the other ladies of the rulers of the Persians and Medes, having heard what she said to the king, will dare in the same way to dishonor their husbands. **read ›**

34 **Esther 2:7** And he had a foster child, the daughter of Amminadab his father’s brother, and her name was Esther; and when her parents died, he brought her up to be his wife; and the young woman was beautiful in appearance. **read ›**

35 **Esther 2:8** And when the king’s command was heard, many young women were gathered to the city of Susa under the hand of Gai, and Esther was brought to Gai the keeper of the women. **read ›**

36 **Esther 2:9** And the young woman pleased him and found favor before him; and he hurried to give her the ointment and her portion, and the seven young women appointed for her from the palace; and he treated her and her maids well in the women’s quarters. **read ›**

37 **Esther 2:10** But Esther did not disclose her race or her country, for Mordecai had commanded her not to tell. **read ›**

38 **Esther 2:13** And then she goes in to the king; and to whomever he commands, he shall hand her over to go in with him from the women’s quarters to the palace. **read ›**

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39 **Esther 2:14** She goes in at evening, and toward day she returns to the second women's quarters, where Gai the king's eunuch is keeper of the women; and she does not go in to the king again unless she is called by name. **read ›**

40 **Esther 2:15** And when the time was fulfilled for Esther the daughter of Amminadab, the brother of Mordecai's father, to go in to the king, she neglected nothing of what the eunuch, the keeper of the women, commanded; for Esther found favor in the sight of all who looked at her. **read ›**

41 **Esther 2:16** And Esther went in to King Artaxerxes in the twelfth month, which is Adar, in the seventh year of his reign. **read ›**

42 **Esther 2:17** And the king loved Esther, and she found favor beyond all the virgins, and he put on her the queen's diadem. **read ›**

43 **Esther 2:18** And the king made a drinking feast for all his friends and his forces for seven days, and he exalted the wedding of Esther, and he granted a release to those under his rule. **read ›**

44 **Esther 2:19** And Mordecai served in the court. **read ›**

45 **Esther 2:20** But Esther had not disclosed her country, for so Mordecai had commanded her: to fear God and to do his statutes, as when she was with him; and Esther did not change her way of life. **read ›**

46 **Esther 3:4** Day after day they spoke to him, but he did not listen to them; and they pointed out to Haman that Mordecai was resisting the king's words. And Mordecai had pointed out to them that he was a Jew. **read ›**

47 **Esther 3:6** and he planned to destroy utterly all the Jews under the kingdom of Artaxerxes. **read ›**

48 **Esther 4:4** And the queen's maids and eunuchs came in and told her; and when she heard what had happened, she was troubled. And she sent to clothe Mordecai and to take away his sackcloth, but he would not be persuaded. **read ›**

49 **Esther 4:5** And Esther called for Achrathaeus her eunuch, who attended her, and she sent him to learn the exact facts from Mordecai. **read ›**

50 **Esther 4:10** And Esther said to Achrathaeus, "Go to Mordecai and say, **read ›**

51 **Esther 4:11** 'All the nations of the kingdom know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king uncalled has no salvation; only the one to whom the king holds out the golden rod will be saved. And I have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days.' " **read ›**

52 **Esther 4:13** And Mordecai said to Achrathaeus, "Go and say to her, 'Esther, do not say to yourself that you alone will be saved in the kingdom, apart from all the Jews. **read ›**

53 **Esther 4:15** And Esther sent the one who had come to her back to Mordecai, saying, **read ›**

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54 **Esther 4:17** And Mordecai went and did all that Esther had commanded him. And he prayed to the Lord, remembering all the works of the Lord, and he said: “O Lord, Lord, King who rules over all, for all things are in your power, and there is no one who can oppose you when you desire to save Israel. For you made heaven and earth and every wonderful thing under heaven. And you are Lord of all, and there is no one who can resist you, the Lord. You know all things; you know, O Lord, that it was not in arrogance nor in pride nor in love of glory that I did this, in not bowing down to proud Haman. For I would gladly have kissed the soles of his feet for the salvation of Israel. But I did this so that I might not set the glory of man above the glory of God; and I will not bow down to anyone except you, my Lord, and I will not do it in pride. And now, O Lord God, the King, the God of Abraham, spare your people; for they are watching us to destroy us, and they have desired to destroy your inheritance that has been yours from the beginning. Do not overlook your portion, which you redeemed for yourself out of the land of Egypt. Hear my prayer, and be merciful to your inheritance, and turn our mourning into feasting, that we may live and sing praise to your name, O Lord; and do not destroy the mouth of those who praise you, O Lord.” And all Israel cried out with their strength, for their death was before their eyes. And Esther the queen fled for refuge to the Lord, seized by the agony of death. And taking off her garments of glory, she put on garments of distress and mourning; and instead of costly perfumes she covered her head with ashes and dung, and she humbled her body greatly, and every place that she used to adorn with joy she covered with her tangled hair. And she prayed to the Lord God of Israel, and said: “O my Lord, you alone are our King. Help me, who am alone and have no helper but you, for my danger is in my hand. From my birth I have heard in the tribe of my family that you, O Lord, took Israel out of all the nations, and our fathers out of all who went before them, for an everlasting inheritance, and that you did for them all that you promised. And now we have sinned before you, and you have handed us over into the hands of our enemies, because we glorified their gods. You are righteous, O Lord. And now they are not satisfied with the bitterness of our slavery, but they have laid their hands on the hands of their idols, to set aside the decree of your mouth, and to destroy your inheritance, and to stop the mouth of those who praise you, and to quench the glory of your house and your altar, and to open the mouth of the nations to praise worthless things, and to have a king of flesh admired forever. Do not hand over your scepter, O Lord, to those who do not exist, and do not let them laugh at our fall; but turn their plan against themselves, and make an example of the one who began this against us. Remember, O Lord; make yourself known in the time of our trouble, and give me courage, O King of the gods and ruler over every dominion. Put fitting words in my mouth before the lion, and turn his heart to hatred of the one who fights against us, to bring an end to him and to those who agree with him. But deliver us by your hand, and help me, who am alone and have no one but you, O Lord. You have knowledge of all things, and you know that I hate the glory of the lawless, and I detest the bed of the uncircumcised and of every foreigner. You know my distress, that I detest the sign of my proud position, which is upon my head on the days when I appear in public. I detest it like a menstrual cloth, and I do not wear it on my days of rest. And your slave has not eaten at Haman’s table, and I have not honored the king’s banquet, nor drunk the wine of drink offerings. And your slave has not rejoiced from the day my life was changed until now, except in you, O Lord God of Abraham. O God, whose might is over all, hear the voice of those in despair, and deliver us from the hand of the evildoers, and deliver me from my fear.” **read ›**

55 **Esther 5:1** Now it came to pass on the third day, when she had stopped praying, that she took off the garments of her worship and clothed herself in her glory. And having become radiant, and having called upon God, the Overseer and Savior of all, she took her two maids; on the one she leaned, as one of delicate bearing, and the other followed, lifting her train. And she was flushed in the full bloom of her beauty, and her face was cheerful, as if full of love; but her heart was in anguish from fear. And passing through all the doors, she stood before the king. And he was seated on the throne of his kingdom, and he had put on all the robes of his majesty, covered all over with gold and precious stones, and he was very terrifying. And lifting his face, blazing with glory, he looked at her in the height of anger. And the queen fell, and her color changed as she fainted, and she sank forward onto the head of the maid who went before her. And God changed the spirit of the king to gentleness, and in alarm he sprang from his throne and took her in his arms until she recovered; and he comforted her with peaceful words and said to her, “What is it, Esther? I am your brother. Take courage; you shall certainly not die, for our command is for the people in general. Come near.” **read ›**

56 **Esther 5:13** Yet these things do not please me when I see Mordecai the Jew in the court.” **read ›**

57 **Esther 6:13** And Haman told Zosara his wife and his friends what had happened to him; and his friends and his wife said to him, “If Mordecai is of the race of the Jews, and you have begun to be humbled before him, you will surely fall; and you will certainly not be able to withstand him, for the living God is with him.” **read ›**

58 **Esther 7:6** And Esther said, “The enemy is Haman, this wicked man.” And Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. **read ›**

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59 **Esther 7:8** And the king returned from the garden; and Haman had fallen on the couch, pleading with the queen. And the king said, “Will you even force my wife in my house?” And when Haman heard it, his face showed his dismay. **read ›**

60 **Esther 8:1** And on that same day King Artaxerxes gave to Esther all that had belonged to Haman the slanderer; and Mordecai was summoned by the king, for Esther had shown that he was related to her. **read ›**

61 **Esther 8:4** And the king held out the golden rod to Esther; and Esther rose to stand beside the king. **read ›**

62 **Esther 8:7** And the king said to Esther, “If I have given and freely granted you all that belonged to Haman, and have hanged him on a tree because he laid his hands on the Jews, what more do you seek? **read ›**

63 **Esther 9:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

64 **Esther 9:12** And the king said to Esther, “The Jews have destroyed five hundred men in the city of Susa; and in the surrounding country, how do you think they have dealt with them? What more, then, do you ask? And it shall be yours.” **read ›**

65 **Esther 9:13** And Esther said to the king, “Let the Jews be allowed to do likewise tomorrow, so as to hang the ten sons of Haman.” **read ›**

66 **Esther 9:25** and how he went in to the king, saying that Mordecai should be hanged; but all the evils he tried to bring upon the Jews came upon himself, and he was hanged, he and his children. **read ›**

67 **Esther 9:29** And Esther the queen, the daughter of Amminadab, and Mordecai the Jew wrote down all that they had done, and the confirmation of the letter of Phrourai. **read ›**

68 **Esther 10:3** And Mordecai served as deputy to King Artaxerxes, and was great in the kingdom, and honored by the Jews; and being loved, he related his way of life to all his nation. And Mordecai said, “These things have come from God. For I remembered the dream that I saw concerning these matters; for not one word of them has failed. The little spring that became a river, and there was light and sun and much water: the river is Esther, whom the king married and made queen. And the two dragons are Haman and I. And the nations are those that gathered to destroy the name of the Jews. And my nation is Israel, who cried out to God and were saved. And the Lord saved his people, and the Lord rescued us from all these evils; and God performed the signs and the great wonders that have not happened among the nations. For this reason he made two lots, one for the people of God and one for all the nations. And these two lots came to the hour and the time, and to the day of judgment, before God and among all the nations. And God remembered his people and vindicated his inheritance. And these days shall be theirs in the month of Adar, on the fourteenth and the fifteenth of the month, with the congregation gathered, and with joy and gladness before God, from generation to generation forever, among his people Israel.” In the fourth year of the reign of Ptolemy and Cleopatra, Dositheus, who said that he was a priest and a Levite, and Ptolemy his son, brought the foregoing letter of Phrourai, which they said was genuine, and which they said Lysimachus the son of Ptolemy, one of those in Jerusalem, had translated. The end of Esther. **read ›**

69 **Job 14:15** Then you will call, and I will answer you; but do not reject the works of your hands. **read ›**

70 **Job 14:18** And surely a mountain that falls will be shattered, and a rock will wear away from its place. **read ›**

71 **Song of Solomon 3:7** Behold, Solomon’s couch; sixty mighty men are all around it, of the mighty men of Israel. **read ›**

72 **Isaiah 14:2** And the Gentiles will take them and bring them into their place, and they will take possession of them, and they will be multiplied on the land as male and female slaves; and those who took them captive will become captives, and those who ruled over them will be ruled. **read ›**

73 **Ezekiel 18:20** But the soul that sins shall die; the son shall not bear the unrighteousness of the father, nor shall the father bear the unrighteousness of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the iniquity of the lawless shall be upon him. **read ›**

74 **Ezekiel 28:10** You shall perish among the multitude of the uncircumcised, by the hands of foreigners; for I have spoken, says the Lord. **read ›**

75 **Ezekiel 32:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

76 **Ezekiel 44:7** that you brought in sons of strangers, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in my sanctuary and to profane it, when you offered bread, flesh, and blood; and you transgressed my covenant by all your iniquities; **read ›**

77 **Ezekiel 44:9** Therefore thus says the Lord God: No son of a stranger, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter my sanctuary, of all the sons of strangers who are in the midst of the house of Israel, **read ›**

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78 **Daniel 5:20** But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit grew strong so that he acted proudly, he was brought down from the throne of his kingdom, and his honor was taken from him, **read ›**

79 **Joel 3:7** Behold, I am rousing them from the place where you sold them, and I will return your repayment upon your heads; (Septuagint Joel 4:7 (Joel 3:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

80 **1 Esdras 9:7** Ezra stood up and said to them, “You have acted lawlessly and married foreign wives, so as to add to the sin of Israel. **read ›**

81 **Tobit 6:12** And the young woman is beautiful and sensible. And now listen to me, and I will speak to her father; and when we return from Rages, we will hold the wedding. For I know that Raguel will by no means give her to another man according to the law of Moses; otherwise he will be liable to death, because it is right for you to take the inheritance rather than any other man.” **read ›**

82 **Judith 14:10** And when Achior saw all that the God of Israel had done, he believed in God greatly; and he circumcised the flesh of his foreskin and was joined to the house of Israel to this day. **read ›**

83 **Judith 14:15** But when no one answered, he opened it and went into the bedroom and found Holofernes thrown down dead on the floor, and his head had been taken from him. **read ›**

84 **Judith 14:18** “The slaves have broken faith! One woman of the Hebrews has brought shame on the house of King Nebuchadnezzar! For behold, Holofernes is on the ground, and his head is not on him!” **read ›**

85 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:18** Before a foreigner do nothing secret, for you do not know what he will bring forth. **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:5** Many sovereigns have sat on the ground, and one never thought of has worn the diadem. **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:34** Settle a foreigner in your house, and he will upset you with troubles, and make you a stranger to your own. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Sirach 48:6** you brought kings down to destruction, and brought glorified men down from their beds; **read ›**

89 **Susanna 1:37** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

90 **1 Maccabees 2:46** and they circumcised by force all the uncircumcised boys whom they found within the borders of Israel. **read ›**

91 **4 Maccabees 14:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

92 **Romans 9:25** As he also says in Hosea, “I will call those who are not my people, ‘My people,’ and her who was not loved, ‘Loved.’ **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *41 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 14:14 · 17:27 · 32:29

Leviticus 26:41

Isaiah 1:9 · 33:13 · 52:5 · 54:1

Jeremiah 4:4

Ezekiel 14:13

Malachi 1:2

Matthew 10:22 · 18:3

Mark 5:34

John 1:10 · 3:36 · 17:5 · 17:11 · 17:14 · 17:21

Acts 2:4 · 7:51 · 10:42

Romans 2:29 · 16:3

1 Corinthians 4:21 · 7:7 · 7:12 · 7:14 · 7:15 · 7:17 · 7:39

2 Corinthians 4:18

Galatians 4:19

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Ephesians 2:12
Philippians 2:30 · 3:3 · 3:8 · 3:12
Hebrews 7:2
Jude 1:7

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Why did Queen Esther say she hated the bed of the uncircumcised?” on October 28, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY