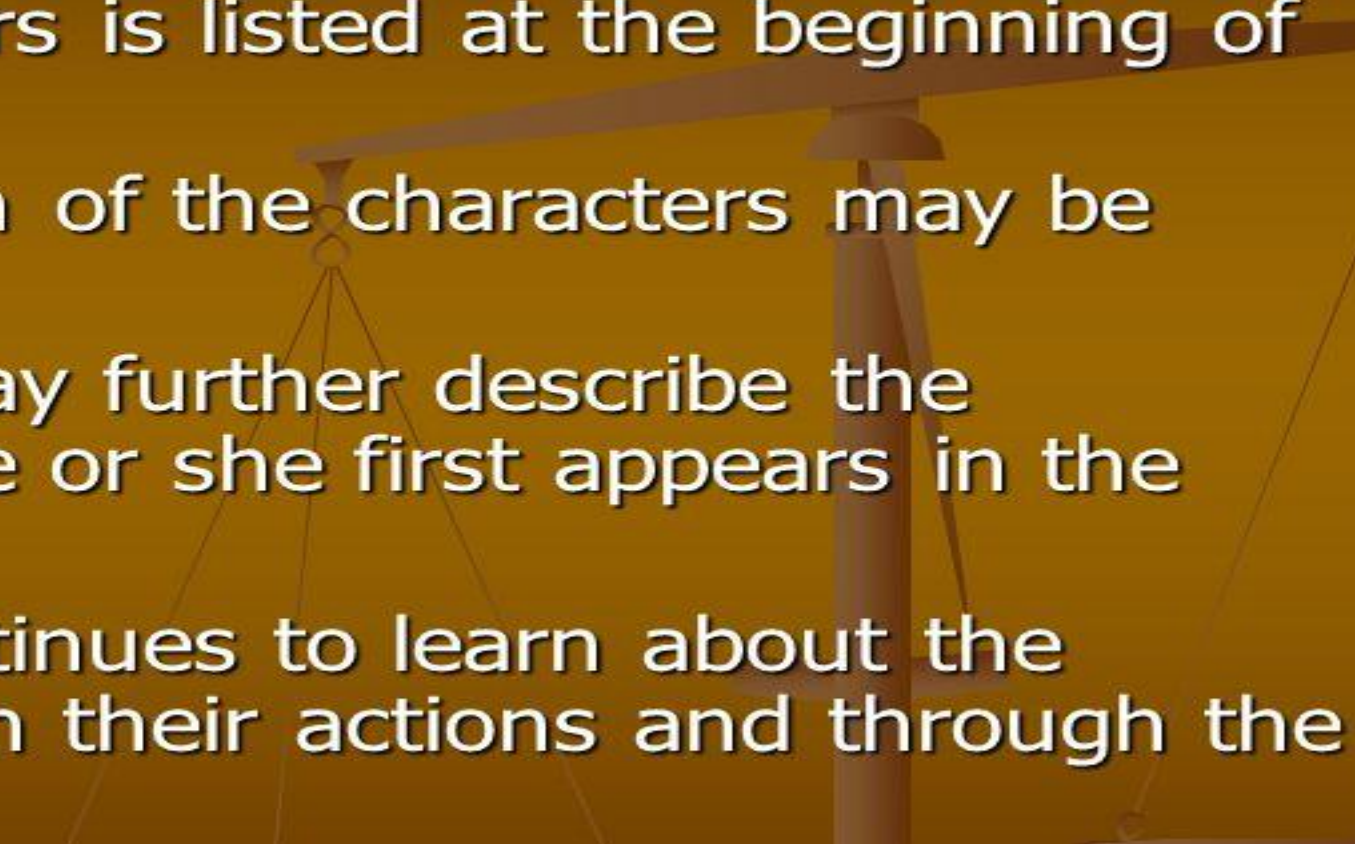


Characters

- A cast of characters is listed at the beginning of a play.
 - A short description of the characters may be included.
 - The playwright may further describe the character when he or she first appears in the play.
 - The audience continues to learn about the characters through their actions and through the dialogue.
- 
- A faint, stylized illustration of a balance scale is visible in the background of the slide. The scale is positioned on the right side, with its vertical pillar and horizontal beam extending across the middle of the frame. Two pans are suspended from the beam, one on each side. The entire image has a dark, monochromatic brown color scheme.

The

HIDDEN

Cast of Characters

Esther 2 Page 354

Studies in Esther

The Time, Place and Setting of Esther

- **Time: 486-465BC During Captivity**
- **Place: Susa: One of three Capitals**
- **Setting: The Royal Palace**

Cast of Characters in Esther

- **Xerxes** **King and Monarch of Babylon**
 - ~*Absolute power and authority*
 - ~*Quick tempered*
 - ~*Easily led by others*
 - ~*Doesn't pay attention to details*

Lesson #1: If you are called to lead...lead!

Cast of Characters in Esther

- **Vashti:** **Deposed Queen of Babylon**
 ~*A bit player*
 ~*Woman of principle*

**Lesson #2: Sometimes we suffer for doing the
right thing.**

1Peter 3:15-18

1Peter 4:16-19

Cast of Characters in Esther

- **Esther** **The new Queen raised up by God for His purposes**

~Two names

Esther:

Myrtle Tree

Hadassah:

Compassion

Lesson #3: We must all choose what kind of man/woman we will be.

Cast of Characters in Esther

- **Mordecai Esther's cousin: *A man of integrity and honor***

Adopted Esther

Checked on her every day

Reported the conspiracy

Refused to bow to Haman

Challenged Esther to act

Lesson #4: Take a stand for spiritual truth, even when it is costly.

Cast of Characters in Esther

- **Haman:** **The villain: A noble elevated by Xerxes to a position of honor**

Proud

Quick tempered

Cruel and capricious

Manipulative

Lesson #5: Avoid pride at ALL costs!

Prov 16:18 *“Pride goes before a fall!”*

Cast of Characters in Esther

- **God:** Never seen, never mentioned...always present and at work!

Lesson #6: Never discount God's presence and work in your life, even when you don't see Him.

Reflections for Today

- *Are you leading the way you should?*
- *Are you willing to suffer to do the right thing?*
- *Have you made the choice to be a man/woman of God, like Esther.*
- *Do you need to take a stand for spiritual truth?*
- *Have you let price creep into your life?*

Have you discounted the work of God in your life just because you don't see it today?