



The Peasant King

2023 (2 in series)

Jemmah has always thought of herself as perfectly ordinary...until she faces extraordinary circumstances. When her mother, the Persian king's famous senior scribe, is kidnapped, Jemmah and her sister must sneak undetected into enemy territory to rescue her. But infiltrating their adversary's lands proves easier than escaping them. Fleeing through dangerous mountain passes, their survival depends on the skills of a stranger they free from prison: a mysterious prince named Asher. Asher is not who the world believes he is. Despite his royal blood, he has had to climb his way out of poverty to forge success from nothing. A manufacturer of some of the best weaponry in the East, Asher has only one goal: to destroy his father. But following his escape from prison, Asher is irresistibly drawn to Jemmah, unaware that she guards her own secret. Jemmah must convince Asher to give up everything he has worked for, all for the sake of a higher purpose he's not sure he believes in. The fate of the Persian empire-and possibly the Judean people-hang in the balance and in the persuasive power of one ordinary woman.

FF: What characters from *The Hidden Prince* do we meet again in this novel?

Twenty years have passed since the events in *The Hidden Prince*, and now our main character is Keren and Jared's daughter, Jemmah. Keren and Jared do show up as important support characters in *The Peasant King*. The boy who was "the hidden prince" is all grown up and has become "the peasant king." He is still friends with Harpagus, just as Daniel and Mahlah remain close to Keren and her daughter, Jemmah. I hope readers will enjoy seeing all these characters again and discovering where they are twenty years later.

FF: What did you enjoy most about researching this period of history?

The rich historical data available from this period provided a lot of additional information where the Bible is silent. Before the Israelite captives could be set free from Babylon, God had to implement a number of other rescues. What became evident through my research was that transforming the small nation of Persia into a global empire mighty enough to defeat Babylon needed God's intervention. These historical accounts were really fun to read about. More importantly, they encouraged and strengthened my faith.