

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Esther"
Book-17

Key Passage – Esther 4:14; Esther 8:17

The Providence of God – *"The Divine guidance and care of God. God as the power sustaining and guiding human destiny"*

Esther models Jesus Christ, in that, she puts her life on the line in order to save her people, Israel.

Esther - means "star" and her Jewish name means "myrtle" (2:7).

Ezra – is concerned with the restoration of the Jewish people in exile.

Nehemiah – is concerned with their physical and spiritual reconstruction.

Esther - is concerned with their preservation.

The Author – It is not stated in the book, but many suggest that possibly **Mordecai**, Esther's cousin, or one of his contemporaries wrote the book. Someone that was familiar with the laws, customs, and of the Jews.

When Written – The events recorded in Esther take place between **Ezra 6 and 7**. The "third year of Ahasuerus" (1:3) would be **483 B.C.**

Between the first return led by Zerubbabel and the second return led by Ezra.

483-473 BC covers a 10-year period.

Where it was Written – Persia. The events took place at the capital Susa.
Esther 1:2

Purpose – The book of Esther is important because it gives the only account of what happened to the majority of the Jews who choose not to return to Israel but remain in Persia. It shows the providence of God upon them.

The providence of God is clearly seen throughout the account of the book. Esther is a Jew who is queen in Persia.

Theme – *"The Providence Of God"*

Key Words – King – 28 times

Key Chapter – Esther 8

The salvation of the Jews took place thru the revision by the King of Persia.

Key Passage – Esther 4:14; Esther 8:17

Outline –

1. Esther 1-2 The Selection of Esther:
2. Esther 3-7 The Detection of Haman:
3. Esther 8-10 The Protection of Israel:

1. Esther 1-2 The Selection of Esther:

Esther 1:1-12 The Banquet: Esther 1:1-3

Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus is the title of the Persian ruler, just as Pharaoh was the title of the Egyptian ruler.

He ruled from **486 to 465 B.C.** History tells us that he was an impulsive ruler, and we can see this displayed in the Book of Esther.

The King Asks The Queen To Show Off At His Party: Esther 1:11-12

The name "**Vashti**" means "*beautiful woman*"

Esther 1:13-22 Vashti Is Banished: The king consults his advisers, and they tell him to banish her.

Esther 1:19 The king hoped that his decree would strengthen the homes of the land. We do know that he later regretted his decision. **Esther 2:1**

Esther 2 The King Chooses Esther: Esther 2:1

Esther 2:2-16 The Choosing Of A New Queen: A one year period was required for preparation to get the potential queens ready to be presented to the King.

Esther is elevated to the highest position of the harem of possible candidates to be queen. Her Cousin, Mordecai (Adopted Esther, her parents had died), counsels her not to tell others that she is Jewish. **Esther 2:10**

Esther Becomes Queen: Esther 2:17 that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Esther 2:21-23 Mordecai Saves The King: Esther 2:21-23

Later, this is going to save Mordecai **Esther 6:1-2**
The King finds that this event has been written.

2. Esther 3-7 The Detection of Haman:

Esther 3 Haman's Plot Against The Jews: Five years pass (v. 7) and Satan begins to work. Haman's promotion went to his head and turned him into a murderer. Being a faithful Jew, Mordecai would not bow down to Haman, and this made the proud ruler excessively angry. **(COVID! Governor Became A King, French Laundry Restaurant Closed Churches)**

Esther 3:1-15

It is difficult to see how the king could make a law to wipe out millions of people one minute, then sit down to eat and drink the next minute (v. 15).

Esther 4 Mordecai's Great Concern: Mordecai tells Esther's Eunuch the plot of Haman to destroy the Jews.

Esther 4:11-14 He added, "If you hold your peace, God will send deliverance some other way!" Mordecai knew God's covenant with Abraham! God would never allow the nation to perish.

Esther 4:15-17 Esther Plans To Intercede: Esther 4:15-17

Esther 5-7 Esther's Courageous Intercession:

Esther Plans A Banquet: Esther 5:2-4 The king and Haman are invited to a banquet given by Esther.

Esther 5:9-14 Haman's Pride: Esther 5:9-14 so he had the gallows made. (75 Feet tall, seen all over the city)

Esther 6:1-9 The King Plans to Honor Mordecai: Esther 6:1-2 (Esther 2:23)

Esther 6:3-4 You speak about bad timing and the providence of God.

Esther 6:5-9

Esther 6:10-14 Haman Must Honor Mordecai: Esther 6:10-14

Psalms 37:1-40 Think of these events! **Psalms 37:1-7**

Esther 7:1-4 Esther's Plea: Esther 7:1-6

How blind this monarch was to the true character of the people around him. He kept godly and wise Mordecai outside the gate, but he allowed Haman the run of the palace.

Esther 7:7-10 Haman Is Hanged: Esther 7:7-10

3. Esther 8-10 The Protection of Israel:

Esther 8:2 The king took off his signet ring which he had taken away from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

Esther 8 The King's New Decree: The King could not go back on his edict. There was "**The Decree of the Medes and Persians**" Which meant that once a law was set into motion it could not be revoked.

We can certainly see the providence of God in the casting of the lots (**Esther 3:7**), for it left time (A year) for the king to get the word of the new decree throughout the empire.

The new decree permitted the Jews to protect themselves and to destroy anyone in the kingdom who was an enemy of the Jews. The king did not cancel the old law; he merely gave a new law that superseded it.

Esther 8:14-17

Esther 9 The Jews' New Victory: The Jews now avenge themselves of their enemies. **Esther 9:1-2**

Esther 9:5 Thus the Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying; and they did what they pleased to those who hated them.

Haman's 10 Sons Hanged - **Esther 9:14**

Esther 9:16 and kill 75,000 of those who hated them;

Esther 9:20-32 The Feast of Purim Instituted: Purim is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from annihilation at the hands of an official of the Medo-Persian Empire named Haman, as it is recounted in the Book of Esther.

Esther 9:26-28

Esther 10 Mordecai's New Honor: Esther 10:1-3

Application:

1. When The Nation Of Israel exalted God, God Exalted The Nation; But When The Rulers, Prophets, And People Turned From The Law, God Removed His Blessing: **Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people.**

2. God Made Promises That Are Always Faithful And True. God Faithfully Protected His People To Whom God Had Promised To Abraham: **2 Peter 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.**
3. Satan's Attacks Can Come Very Suddenly, So We Need To Be Sober And Alert: **1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.**

Isaiah 54:17 "No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD.

4. We See God's Wisdom On Display Through Esther And Mordecai. God's Wisdom Is Available To Us Today:

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

1 Peter 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.