



The Book of ESTHER

Sherman J. Fort
Under-Shepherd, Pastor

Canaan Missionary Baptist Church
931 South Stapely Drive Mesa, AZ 85204
P.O. Box 40104 Mesa, Arizona 85274

Office: 480.835.6320
Fax: 480.835.6004

Website: www.mycmbc.org
Email: email@mycmbc.org

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

INTRODUCTION: Of all the books of the Bible, the book of Esther may very well be the jewel that many CHRISTian treasure seekers rarely find. The book of Esther speaks to the CHRISTian about the Plan, Protection and omnipotent Providential care of **GOD** in the lives of His people!

For those of us who need a reminder of just how much our **GOD** cares for His children and provides for them- this book is a great resource. For those of us who need to be reminded of the miraculous ways in which our **GOD** see's to the protection of His children- this book is a great resource. For those of us who need to be encouraged by the fact that our **GOD** is in control of everything; and who need to be reminded that our **GOD** orders and orchestrates even the activities of 'sinners' (*those who do not know Him as Savior and LORD*); ... this book is an excellent resource!

Let's consider the following:

I. THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK:

First and foremost, let me quickly point out that our **GOD** is the one and only author of The Bible! Furthermore, let me underscore the fact that our **GOD** has chosen to work through **GOD** The **HOLY SPIRIT** in directing the heart of men and women as the human secretaries in the writing of The Bible.

Having said all of that, let's consider just who the human author of the book of Esther was. There are several things to consider in trying to decipher who the human author of Esther was. Those things include: *a) No author is mentioned by name in the book. b) Whoever the author was, they possessed intimate knowledge as to the customs and culture of Persian lifestyle. c) They possessed most intimate knowledge of Jewish culture, customs, lifestyle etc.*

With all of this in mind, it seems most probable that the author of the book of Esther was Jewish. And, while names such as Ezra, Nehemiah, Mordecai and Esther herself have been suggested as the human author of this book, the truth is we really don't know who the human author was.

It is very possible that an aid or contemporary of Mordecai may very well have compiled the book based on first hand accounts, testimony from Mordecai himself- and the use of Mordecai's personal notes.

What's most important here, is that our **GOD** has given us this book for our own edification and encouragement. **PRAISE THE LORD!**

1.

II. THE AGE OF THE BOOK:

Since some of the events in the book take place in 473 B.C., ... the probable time

Esther was written was between 464 B.C. and about 435 B.C.
-The Nelson Open Bible

Others date the book about 516-506 B.C.
-The Annotated Reference Bible

THE AIM OF THE BOOK:

The primary aim or objective of the book of Esther is to communicate the Sovereign, rule and reign of our **GOD** in the lives of His people. To clearly show that our **GOD** loves, cares for, protects, provides for; and Supernaturally keeps His people ... in fulfillment of His holy **WORD!**

It's also interesting to point out at this point that our **GOD** uses women- as well as men in working out His purpose on this (*His*) planet!

~Some interesting points to ponder:

- ↪ The name Esther (*derived from the Persian word for "Star"*); is a Persian name, given to the Jewish woman who became Queen.
- ↪ Esther's Hebrew name was: "*Hadassah*" ('*Hadacchah*'); pronounced: *had-as-saw*. Hadassah is derived from the Hebrew word: '*Hadac*', pronounced: *had-as*; which means: "*Myrtle - Myrtle tree*".
- ↪ Esther is one of only two books in the Scripture names after women!
- ↪ Chronologically speaking, the story of Esther fits between chapters six and seven of the book of Ezra.

ADDITIONAL PERSONAL NOTES!

2.

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

Chapter One - Esther 1:1-22

I. A ROYAL FEAST!
Esther 1:1-8

II. A RIGHTEOUS AND ROYAL REFUSAL!
Esther 1:9-12

III. A ROYAL DECREE!
Esther 1:13-22

- a. King Ahaseurus (*also called King Xerxes in this book*); seeks counsel.
verses 13-15
- b. Counselor, Memucan responds to the King Ahaseurus and recommends a solution the king.
verses 16-20
- c. King Ahaseurus' response to the Memucan's recommendation.
verse 21
- d. The King sends out letters declaring the new decree.

3.

ESTHER CHAPTER TWO
Esther 2:1-23

I. THE SEARCH FOR A NEW QUEEN:

Esther 2:2-4 (*Listen for note on verse 1*)

- a. The gathering of “*beautiful, young, virgins*” as candidates to become the next queen. verse 2
- b. The place the candidates were brought and who took custody of them. verse 3.
- c. The Second part of the recommendation from the king’s “*servants*” is mentioned in verse four. Namely, to let the winner of *this “contest & competition”* become queen in place of Vashti.

II. NOTE GOD’S PROVIDENTIAL CONTROL OF THE SITUATION:

Esther 2:5-14

- a. *Introduction of ‘Uncle’ Mordecai; and his relationship to Esther. verses 5-7*
- b. *Esther is included in those women taken to Shushan the citadel. verse 8*
- c. **GOD’S** *divine favor, and faithful hand is on Esther! verse 9*
- d. **GOD’S** *wisdom through Mordecai is observed by Esther. verse 10*
- e. *The concern of Uncle Mordecai and preparations for the women. verses 11-14*

4.

ESTHER CHAPTER THREE

Chapter 3:1-4:17

I. THE PROMOTION OF HAMAN!

verse 1

II. THE PLOT OF HAMAN!

verses 2-6

~ Haman was being used by Satan

III. THE PRESENTATION OF HAMAN'S PLOT TO KING AHASEURUS!

verses 7-9

IV. THE NEW DECREE IS PUT IN PLACE!

verses 10-15

V. THE PROFOUND FEAR OF THE JEWS!

Esther 4:1-3

VI. THE DIVINE PLAN OF MORDECAI TO FREE THE JEWS FROM HAMAN'S PLOT!

Esther 4:4-14

VII. THE PROMISE OF QUEEN ESTHER!

Esther 4:15-17

5.

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

Chapter Five

Esther 5:1-14

I. QUEEN ESTHER GOES BEFORE THE KING!

Esther 5:1-8

a. Notice Esther's Dress: Esther 5:1a-
She put on her "*royal robes*"

b. Notice Esther's Daring: Esther 5:1b-

She dared to stand in the "*inner court*" of the king's palace ... without an

invitation!

- c. Notice Esther's Divine Father: Esther 5:2-3
Before Esther found "*favor*" with king Ahasuerus; she'd already found favor with The King of Kings ... **GOD** Himself!
 - i. the king extends the royal scepter to Esther.
 - ii. the king *declares Esther's request will be answered up to "half of his kingdom"* even before she tells him what the request is! Now that's favor!
- d. Notice Esther's **GOD**-given Plan for Deliverance!
 - ~Phase 1: Esther invites Haman to join she and the king at the banquet. (*This is the first of two banquets that Esther prepares*). Esther 5:4
 - ~Phase 2: At the banquet of wine Esther promises to reveal her request to the king "*tomorrow*." Esther 5:5-8

II. **HAMAN PLOTS AGAINST MORDECAI!**

Esther 5:9-14

- a. Haman rejoices in his position as the king's chief servant. Esther 5:9a
 - i. Haman brags to his family about his status with the king and queen
 - ii. Haman hates Mordecai for his refusal to bow down before Haman.
- b. Haman restrains from harming Mordecai initially and heeds bad advice from un-**Godly** people. Esther 5:10-12
 - i. Haman hold back from harming Mordecai initially. Esther 5:10
 - ii. Haman now brags about his riches. Esther 5:11
 - iii. Haman hears and heeds bad advice from his wife and friends. Esther 5:12-14

NOTES!

6.

ESTHER CHAPTER SIX

Esther 6:1-14

I. **THE KING CAN'T SLEEP!**

- a. There is a RIGHTeous reason for the king's restlessness! Esther 6:1a
- b. The book of "*the records*" is brought to the king at his request! Esther 6:1b
- c. The king hears about the good deed(s) of Mordecai. Esther 6:2

***GOD USED INSOMNIA TO SPEAK TO KING AHASUERUS**

II. THE KING SEEKS TO HONOR MORDECAI FOR THE GOOD HE HAS DONE!

- a. The king discovers that Mordecai has not yet been honored. Esther 6:3
- b. Haman ignorantly arrives in the outer court to suggest that Mordecai be hung. Esther 6:4
- c. The king asks Haman for a recommendation on what should be done to honor “*the man whom the king delights to honor?*” Esther 6:6a
- d. Haman ignorantly believes that the one the king seeks to honor is himself. Esther 6:6b
- e. Haman recommends great things for this ‘one’ the king seeks to honor. Esther 6:7-9
- f. The king tells Haman to “*hurry*” and fulfill his recommendation for Mordecai! Esther 6:10

III. HAMAN BECOMES THE FOOTSTOOL OF MORDECAI!

Reference: Genesis 50:20

- a. Haman is commanded to provide the robe and horse to Mordecai, and then leads Mordecai through the city square all the while declaring: “*Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!*”. Esther 6:11
- b. Haman goes home and mourns. Esther 6:12
- c. Haman receives a discouraging word of doom from his wife and counselors. Esther 6:13
- d. Haman is called to the second part of the banquet before Queen Esther. Esther 6:14

7.

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

Chapter Seven

Esther 7:1-10

I. QUEEN ESTHER’S REQUEST!

- a. *Queen Esther’s Banquet Continued: Esther 7:1*
- b. *King Ahasuerus Big Promise: Esther 7:2*
- c. *Queen Esther Desires the salvation of the Jews: Esther 7:3-4*

II. KING AHASUERUS' RESPONSE!

- a. *The king demands to know who's at fault: Esther 7:5*
- b. *The king listens as Esther identifies Haman: Esther 7:6*
- c. *Haman is terrified and begs Queen Esther for his life: Esther 7:7*
- d. *The king decides to kill Haman on the gallows he made for Mordecai: Esther 7:8-10*

III. HAMAN'S REALITY!

- a. *Haman mistakenly thought of himself more "highly than he should have."*
- b. *Haman mis-used his position as the king's assistant.*
- c. *Haman sought to promote himself while putting down others.*
- d. *Haman sought to kill **GOD'S** chosen people.*

Quote:

"If you dig one ditch, you better dig two- because the other ditch just may be for you."

NOTES!

8.

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

Chapter Eight

Esther 8:1-17

I. THE PLAN TO SAVE THE JEWS!

- a. *Mordecai is promoted: 8:1-2*
- b. *Esther pleads for the protection of her people: 8:2-6*
- c. *The king empowers Mordecai & Esther to write a new decree: 8:7-14*

II. MORDECAI IS PRAISED!

- a. Note that Mordecai left the “presence” of the king: 8:15a
- b. Note Mordecai’s dress, and the “color’s” in-particular: 8:15b
- c. Note the city is “glad”: 8:15c

III. THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD ALMIGHTY IS PROMOTED AND PUBLICIZED!

- a. The Jews enjoyed life: 8:16
- b. The Jews began a feast/festival: 8:17a
- c. The One true **GOD** is feared: 8:17b

NOTES!

9.

ESTHER CHAPTER NINE

Esther 9:1-32

I. THE JEWS DEFEAT THEIR ENEMIES!

- a. The 2nd decree allows the Jews to defend themselves: 9:1-16!
 - i. *while the first decree could not be abolished according to law; another could be written that would empower the Jews.*

Remember: **GOD’S law is the only law that really matters!**

- b. The feast of Purim: 9:17-32!

Quote: *“The first and last biblically revealed, non-Mosaic festival with perpetual significance.”*
-John MacArthur Jr.

- It is very important that we pause and praise **GOD** for what He does in our lives. It is equally important that we build “*altars*” in our hearts (*and perhaps even make physical markers*); that will remind us of particular moments when **GOD** brought us through difficult circumstances.

10.

ESTHER CHAPTER TEN

Esther 10:1-3

CONCLUSION! As we conclude our study in the book of Esther, several things are noted in the this final, short- three verse chapter. The include:

1. The person and power of king Ahasuerus. Esther 10:1 & 2a
2. The position of Mordecai. Esther 10:2b & 3a
3. The selfless seeking of “*good*” for the Jewish people by Mordecai.
Esther 10:3b

Note that Mordecai can easily be compared to Joseph in the book of Genesis, who **GOD** promoted among the Egyptians- and used to save His people.

Note that Mordecai can easily be compared to Daniel who **GOD** promoted among the Medes and Persians- and used to reveal great prophetic truths to His people and the world.

Questions:

*How is **GOD** using you to accomplish His will on planet earth?*

Are you available to Him?

*Are you willing to put your life on the line and go before the kings of this world
and declare the truth of **GOD'S** love?*

GOD IS IN CONTROL ... PERIOD!