

# ESTHER

God's providence among his people during ...

... Hard Times

... Happy Times

	<b>King's Banquet</b>	<b>Haman's Edict</b>	<b>Queen's Courage</b>	<b>God's Deliverance</b>	<b>Mordecai's Edict</b>	<b>Jews' Rejoicing</b>	<b>Shalom!</b>
	Honoring the kingdom		Urging of Mordecai	Mordecai honored		Enemies destroyed	
	Honoring the new queen		Approaching the King	Haman hanged		Feast established	
	CHAPTERS 1-2	CHAPTER 3	CHAPTERS 4-5	CHAPTERS 6-7	CHAPTER 8	CHAPTER 9	CHAPTER 10
<b>Circumstance</b>	Threat and trust			Deliverance and praise			
<b>Feasts</b>	of the king	of the queen		of the nation			
<b>Dates</b>	483 B.C.			473 B.C.			
<b>Theme</b>	The sovereign accomplishment of God's purposes through ordinary people and apparent coincidences						
<b>Key Verses</b>	4:12-16; 10:3						
<b>Christ in Esther</b>	Esther was an advocate for her people, even willing to die for them.						

# Esther

(Dr. John Phillips)

## I. HOW THE PLOT WAS FORMED (1-3)

- A. The Might of Ahasuerus (1-3)
- B. The Marriage of Esther (2:1-20)
- C. The Ministry of Mordecai (2:21-23)
- D. The Malice of Haman (3)

## II. HOW THE PLOT WAS FOUGHT (4-5)

- A. The Cry of Israel (4:1-3)
- B. The Convictions of Mordecai (4:1-14)
- C. The Courage of Esther (4:15-5:8)
- D. The Confidence of Haman (5:9-14)

## III. HOW THE PLOT WAS FOILED (6-10)

- A. The Death of Haman (6-7)
  - 1. He Was Publicly Humbled (6)
  - 2. He Was Publicly Hanged (7)
- B. The Decree of Ahasuerus (8)
- C. The Deliverance of Israel (9:1-18)
- D. The Day of Purim (9:19-32)
- E. The Dignity of Mordecai (10)

The Book of Esther centers around the descendants of the Israelites who remained in Persia after the 70-year captivity and the Hebrew maiden Hadassah, who was given the Persian name Esther.

*The events in this book probably took place in the time period between chapters six and seven of the Book of Ezra, occurring about 40 years after the Temple had been rebuilt (Ezra 3:10; 5:14-15), but about 30 years before the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt (Nehemiah 6:15).*

It is quite possible that Esther, who was by then the queen mother, was used of God to prepare the way for her fellow Israelite Nehemiah to become the cupbearer to her Persian stepson King Artaxerxes I. This trusted position and relationship with the king was probably the basis for Nehemiah to receive the king's support for rebuilding the walls in Jerusalem.

Ahasuerus is the Hebrew name and Xerxes the Greek name, of Khshayarsha, king of Persia. He ruled from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces (Esther 1:1). It is assumed that, at the banquet which opens the Book of Esther, he was planning a battle against Greece which eventually led to his defeat. Ahasuerus reigned in Shushan (Susa) which was located in modern Iran near the eastern border of Iraq. The rule of his son Artaxerxes I is recorded in Ezra 7-10 and Nehemiah 1-13.

The Book of Esther, as well as the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah, confirm that God can accomplish His perfect will through a helpless minority of faithful servants, even when they are ruled by evil men (Jeremiah 32:27).