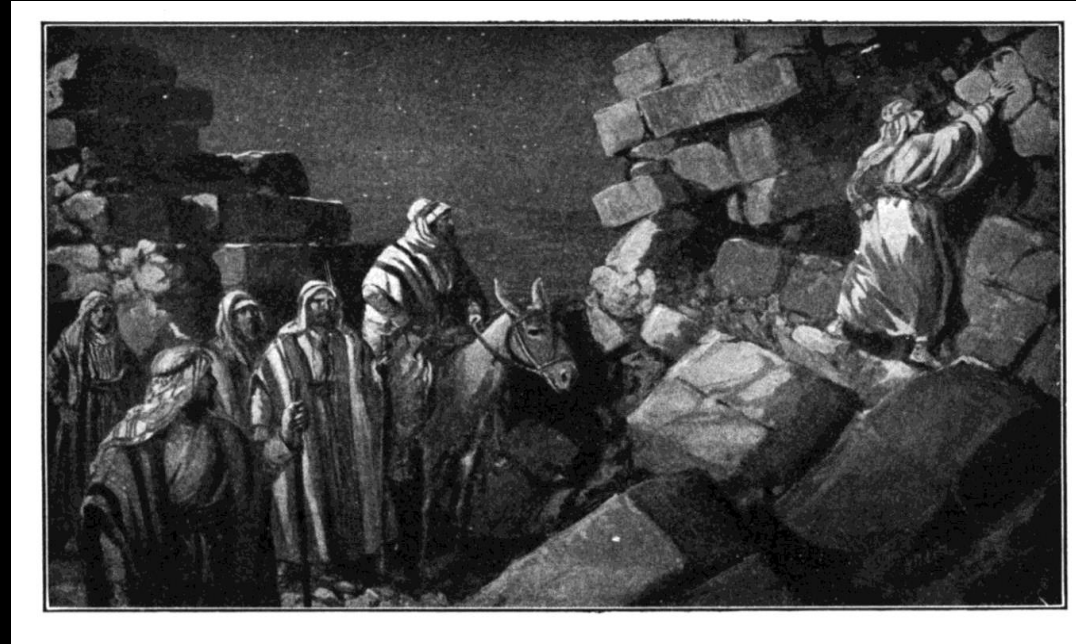


A Time to Build

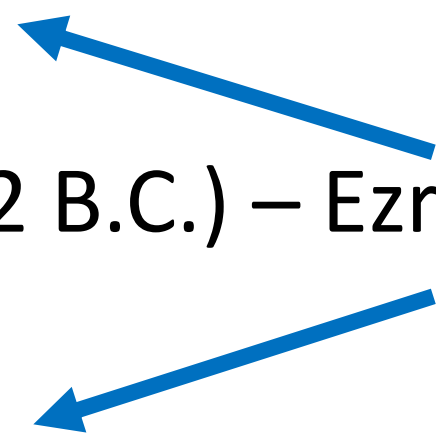


A Study of the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

Survey of Esther

Treatment of the Jews (1:1 – 2:23)	Trial of the Jews (3:1 – 7:10)	Triumph of the Jews (8:1 – 10:3)
The Jews Introduced	The Jews Threatened	The Jews Victorious
Feasts of Ahasuerus Vashti / Esther / Mordecai	Feasts of Esther Haman / Mordecai / Esther	Feasts of the Jews The Jews / Esther / Mordecai
483 – 479/78 B.C.	479/78 – 474/73 B.C.	474/73 B.C.

The Story of Esther

- Cyrus (559 – 530 B.C.) – Ezra 1-3
 - Cambyses and Guamata (530 – 522 B.C.) – Ezra 4
 - Darius (522 – 486 B.C.) – Ezra 5-6
 - **Ahasuerus/Xerxes (486 – 465 B.C.) – Esther 1-10**
 - Artaxerxes I (465 – 424 B.C.) – Ezra 7-10 and Nehemiah 1-10
- 

The Story of Esther

- The story of Esther takes place during the “58-year gap” between Ezra 6 and Ezra 7 ... between “the sixth year of the reign of Darius”, **516 B.C.** (Ezra 6:15) and “the seventh year of Artaxerxes”, **458 B.C.** (Ezra 7:8)
- The story covers a period of about 10 years beginning with Ahasuerus, in “the third year of his reign”, **483 B.C.** (Esther 1:3) and continues to “the twelfth year of the king”, **474/73 B.C.** (Esther 3:7)

The Story of Esther

- The **treatment** of the Jews (1:1 – 2:23): the Jews introduced
- The **trial** of the Jews (3:1 – 7:10): the Jews threatened
- The **triumph** of the Jews (8:1 – 10:3): the Jews victorious

*“from sorrow to gladness and from mourning into a good day”
(Esther 9:22)*

The Story of Esther

- The **expulsion** of Vashti (1:1-22)
- The **elevation** of Esther (2:1-23)
- The **extermination** of the Jews (3:1 – 9:32)
 - The extermination planned (3:1 – 4:17)
 - The extermination revealed (5:1 – 7:10)
 - The extermination resisted (8:1 – 9:32)
- The **exaltation** of Mordecai (10:1-3)

The Expulsion of Vashti

- King Ahasuerus makes a great feast (1:1-8)
- Queen Vashti is commanded to come and show her beauty, but she refuses (1:9-12)
- King Ahasuerus accepts the counsel to reject Vashti and look for another queen (1:13-22)

The Elevation of Esther

- Fair, young virgins are brought to Shushan to be purified for selection (2:1-4)
- Hadassah (Esther) is taken in with the other virgins and given special treatment (2:5-11)
- Esther obtains favor in the sight of the king and is selected as queen (2:12-18)
- Mordecai hears of a conspiracy and saves the king's life (2:19-23)

The Extermination of Jews

- Haman is promoted and Mordecai refuses to bow down to him, so Haman wants to kill all the Jews (3:1-5)
- Haman makes a request of the king to have the Jews destroyed and the decree is sent out (3:7-15)
- Mordecai and the Jews mourn their impending doom and Esther is made aware of the problem (4:1-8)
- Esther tells Mordecai that she cannot approach the king without permission (4:9-12)

The Extermination of Jews

- Mordecai asks one question that instills courage and virtue in Esther (4:13-17)
- Esther requests of the king that he and Haman come to a banquet that she has prepared for them (5:1-8)
- Haman leaves with joy and pride, followed by anger (5:9-14)
- Mordecai is recognized for his earlier good deed of saving the king (6:1-14)

The Extermination of Jews

- Esther, at her second banquet, exposes Haman's plan to destroy the Jews and Haman is hanged (7:1-10)
- Esther requests of the king that the Jews be authorized to defend themselves against their enemies (8:1-14)
- There is joy and gladness among the Jews when they hear they can defend themselves (8:15-17)

Applications for Today

1. God will take away from those who don't deserve what they have and give it to others more worthy (8:1-2; Mt. 13:12; 25:28).
2. Pray to God that he will "reverse" the misfortunes of life that are caused by wicked men (8:3-8; Psa. 12:5; 37:12ff; Prov. 15:25; 21:1; 29:13).
3. Life is precious, so take a stand for your life and the lives of others (8:11; Neh. 4:14).

Applications for Today

4. The ability to save a life should cause great gladness, joy, and “a good day” (8:17; Psa. 82:4; Prov. 24:11).

Take A Stand For Life

- Psalm 82:4
- Proverbs 24:11
- Jeremiah 22:3
- Mark 3:4; Luke 6:9

Take A Stand For Life

- Why is the life of each person sacred?
- What attitude or character do you have to have in order to save lives, your own and others?

Take A Stand For Life

- **Job** – he rescued those who had no help (Job 29:12-17)
- **Reuben** – he saved his brother Joseph from death (Gen. 37:21-22)
- **Saul** – he delivered the men of Jabesh-Gilead from death (1 Sam. 11:9)
- **The People** – they rescued Jonathan from his father's decree of death (1 Sam. 14:45)

Take A Stand For Life

- **David** – he rescued his two wives (1 Sam. 30:18)
- **Poor Wise Man** – he delivered a whole city that would have been destroyed (Eccl. 9:14-15)
- **Darius** – he tried to rescue Daniel (Dan. 6:14)
- **Esther** – she saved her people by giving them authority to defend themselves from death (8:3 – 9:16)

Take A Stand For Life

- **Good Samaritan** – he restored the life of the one who was robbed (Lk. 10:30-35)
- **Paul** – he told the jailor not to take his life (Acts 16:27-28)
- **Chief Captain** – he rescued Paul from an angry Jewish mob (Acts 21:27-35)

Take A Stand For Life

- **Paul's nephew** – he exposed the Jews' plot to kill Paul allowing Paul to be protected (Acts 23:12-25)