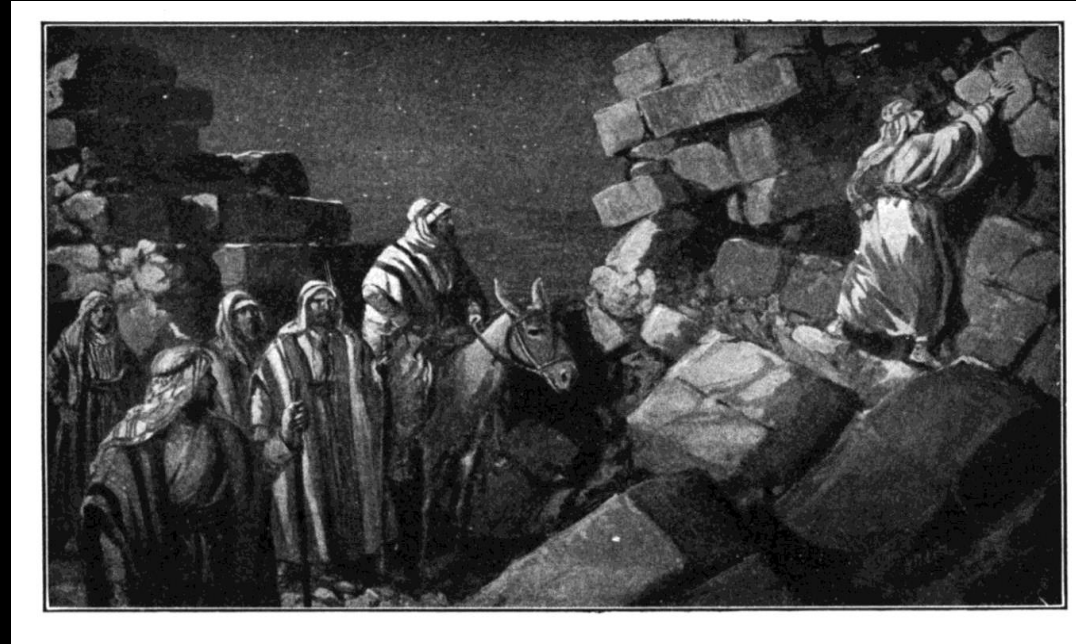


A Time to Build




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
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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)

The Extermination of Jews

- The Jews resist and their enemies are destroyed (9:1-16)
- The feast of Purim is instituted to celebrate the Jews' victory (9:17-32)

Applications for Today

1. God can reverse the wicked plans of evil people (9:1, 25; Esther 8:5; Psa. 75:7; 147:6; Lk. 1:52).
2. God's servants will always have those people in the world who hurt them and hate them (9:2, 5, 16; Mt. 10:22; 24:9-10; Lk. 1:71; 6:22; Jn. 15:18-19; 17:14; 1 Pet. 3:13-14).
3. Those who are truly great serve others for good (9:4; Mt. 20:26; Lk. 22:26).

Applications for Today

4. Those who live by the sword will die by the sword (9:1-10; Mt. 26:52).
5. Pray that we might have rest from our enemies (9:11-16, 22; Deut. 12:10; Josh. 23:1).
6. Life is precious, so take a stand for your life and the lives of others (9:16; Esther 8:11; Neh. 4:14).

Applications for Today

7. Wicked people want to take life, but righteous people want to spare life (9:25; see also 7:6; Prov. 24:11; Lk. 6:9).
8. The day that life is spared is a day of gladness and a day to be remembered (9:17-32; Acts 2:46).
9. The “words of peace and truth” for us today are found in the New Testament gospel (9:30; Eph. 1:13; 6:15; Gal. 2:5, 14; Col. 1:5).

Esther: From Trial to Triumph

1. The Jews went from trial to triumph **because of the courageous actions of Mordecai and Esther**

- Mordecai got involved (4:8, 14)
- Esther got involved (4:16)
- Do you have the courage to get involved (2 Tim. 1:7)?

Esther: From Trial to Triumph

2. The Jews went from trial to triumph **because they defended and protected their lives**

- Esther could only do so much, they had to fight for their lives – “stood for their lives” (9:16)
- Are you willing to fight for your life and the lives of your family (Eph. 6:10ff)?

Esther: From Trial to Triumph

3. The Jews went from trial to triumph **because God providentially protected for his people**
- The Jews' circumstances changed, not because of chance or fate, but because God's hand of providence, protection, and preservation was working behind the scenes to save them (6:13)

From Sorrow to Gladness

- Psalm 30:11; 126:1-6
- Isaiah 35:10; 51:11; 61:1-3
- John 16:20
- 1 Peter 4:13; 5:1, 10

From Sorrow to Gladness

- What purpose is served when we go from sorrow to gladness?
- What attitude or character do you have to maintain in order to go from sorrow to gladness?

From Sorrow to Gladness

- **Job** – he went from suffering to restoration (Jas. 5:11)
- **Jesus** – he went from suffering to glory (Lk. 24:26; Heb. 2:9-10)
- **Faithful Christians** – they will go from suffering to glory (Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17)