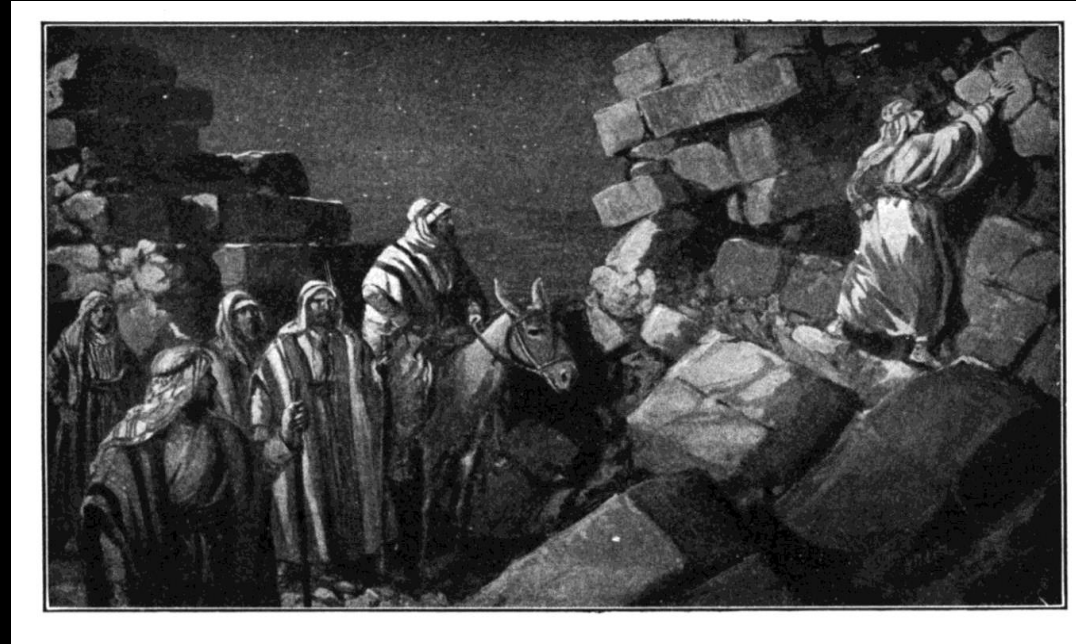


A Time to Build





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)

Applications for Today

1. It should cause us great sorrow that harm would come to God's people (4:1-4; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:26).
2. If we do not do what is right, God will still do what is right despite our lack of action (4:14; Psa. 65:5; 103:6; 2 Thess. 1:6).
3. God wants us to use our time and talents on this earth to do his will and the time to do what is right is now (4:14; Eccl. 3:1-8, 17; 2 Cor. 6:2; Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5).

Applications for Today

4. Always encourage others to do the right thing (4:13-14; 1 Sam. 25:23ff).
5. If we have to die for doing what is right, so be it (4:16; Jn. 15:13; Acts 15:26; Phil. 2:30; 1 Jn. 3:16).