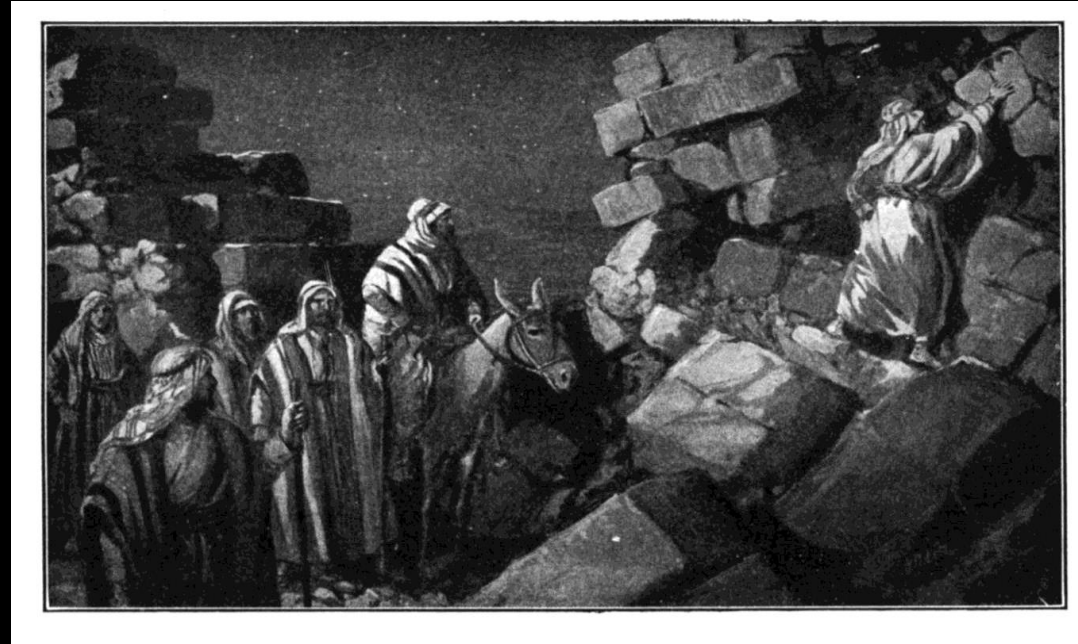


# A Time to Build





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

# Survey of Esther

<b>Treatment of the Jews (1:1 – 2:23)</b>	<b>Trial of the Jews (3:1 – 7:10)</b>	<b>Triumph of the Jews (8:1 – 10:3)</b>
<b>The Jews Introduced</b>	<b>The Jews Threatened</b>	<b>The Jews Victorious</b>
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)

# Applications for Today

1. Give honor to whom honor is due (6:3; Rom. 13:7; 1 Pet. 2:17).
2. Don't assume that you are always the subject of the conversation (6:4-6; Prov. 18:13).
3. God has a way of giving to others what proud people want for themselves (6:7-9; Dan. 5:20).

# Applications for Today

4. God gives grace (blessing, favor) to the humble (6:10-11; Jas. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5).
5. We are supposed to rejoice with them that rejoice (6:12; Rom. 12:15).
6. A haughty spirit goes before a fall (6:13; Prov. 16:18).

# That He May Exalt You in Due Time

- Mt. 23:12
- Lk. 1:52; 14:11; 18:14
- James 4:10
- 1 Peter 5:6

# That He May Exalt You in Due Time

- What is the situation in the life of the person that God chooses to exalt? It is typically something negative.
- What activities is the person doing at the time that God chooses to exalt him? They are typically living a normal, faithful, humble life.
- What does the person do after God chooses to exalt him? They typically are known to help others.

# That He May Exalt You in Due Time

- **Joseph** – exalted after being rejected by his brothers (Gen. 41:37-45)
- **Moses** – exalted after the possibility of death (Ex. 1-3)
- **Israel** – exalted after living in bondage (Acts 13:17)
- **Daniel / friends** – exalted after being immersed in a pagan society (Dan. 3; 6)

# That He May Exalt You in Due Time

- **Mordecai** – exalted after being threatened with extinction (Esther 6)
- **Job** – exalted after terrible suffering and rejection (Job 42:7-17)
- **Mary** – exalted after living a simple, poor life (Lk. 1:48)
- **Jesus** – exalted after suffering the cruel cross (Acts 2:33; 5:31; Phil. 2:9)