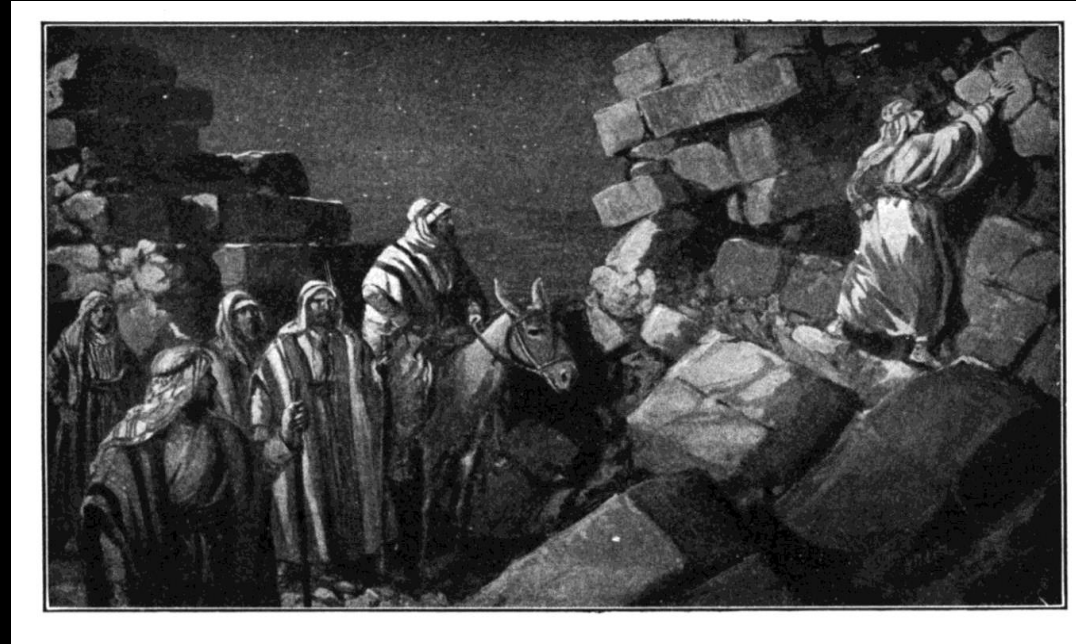


# A Time to Build





*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)

# 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)

# The Exaltation of Mordecai

- Mordecai advances in the kingdom and continues to care for his people (10:1-3)

# Applications for Today

1. When God advances you to a position of greatness in life, always use it to serve others and help them (10:3; Lk. 2:52; Gal. 1:14).
2. Always seek the good and the peace of your brethren (10:3; 1 Pet. 3:11).

# Seeking the Good of Others

- Psalm 34:14; 37:27 (1 Pet. 3:11)
- Proverbs 11:27
- Amos 5:14
- Luke 6:27, 33 (see Jer. 29:7)
- 1 Corinthians 10:24

# Seeking the Good of Others

- Philippians 2:4
- 1 Timothy 6:18
- Hebrews 13:16
- James 4:7



# Seeking the Good of Others

- What purpose is served when you seek the good of others?
- What attitude or character do you have to have to seek the good of others?

# Seeking the Good of Others

- **God** – he sought the good of others when he gave mankind a plan of salvation (Gen. 3:15)
- **Joseph** – he used his position of authority to help the Egyptians and his own people (Gen. 45:5-8; 50:20)
- **Moses** – he used his position in Pharaoh's house to lead his people out of Egypt (Acts 7:21-22)

# Seeking the Good of Others

- **The Judges** – they used their talents to save their people out of the hand of the enemy (Judges 2:16; 3:9)
- **Mordecai** – he used his position of prominence and greatness to seek the good of his people (Esther 10:3)
- **Nehemiah** – he sought the welfare of his people when he came to rebuild the walls (Neh. 2:10; Psa. 51:18)

# Seeking the Good of Others

- **Jesus** – he went about doing good (Mt. 12:12; Acts 10:38)
- **Paul** – he sought the good of the churches by doing good work for them (2 Cor. 11:28)
- **Timothy and Epaphroditus** – they sought the good of the brethren by doing work for Paul (Phil. 2:19-30)