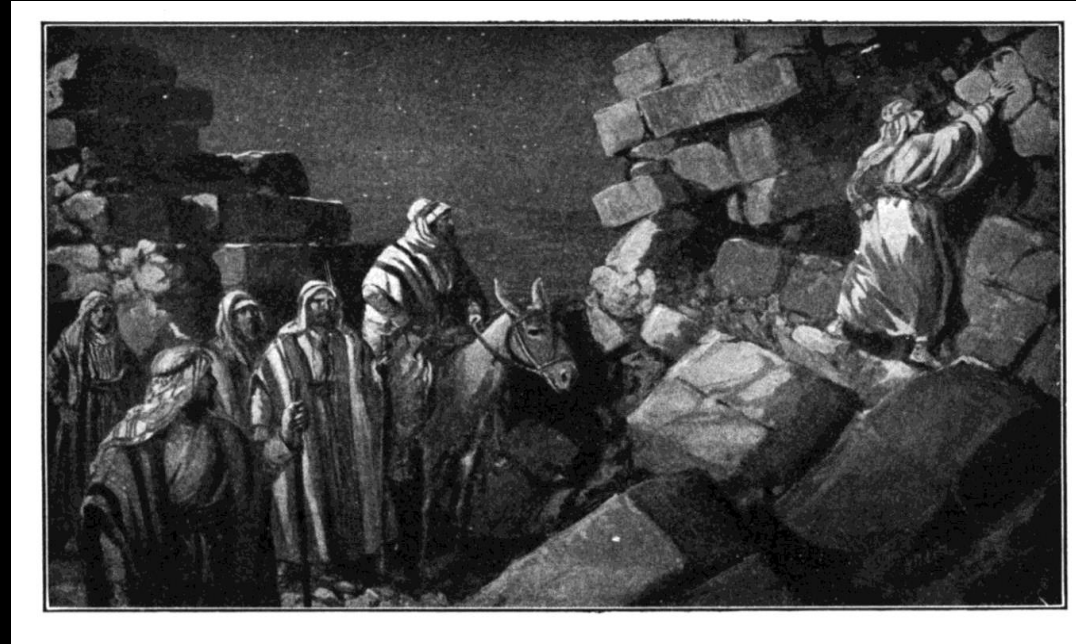


A Time to Build

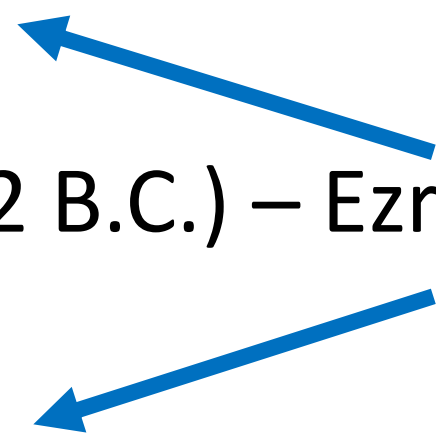


A Study of the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

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 thwarted (5:1 – 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)

Applications for Today

1. Make the best of your situation in life even though it may not always be good (2:5-7; Prov. 16:3).
2. Take care of others when you can (2:7, 15; Zech. 7:10; Lk. 14:13; Jas. 1:27).
3. Have respect for those who take care of you and do what they say (2:10, 20; Eph. 6:1).

Applications for Today

4. A good wife not only brings favor from man, but favor from the Lord (2:15, 17; Prov. 8:35; 18:22).
5. When you see something (wrong), say something (2:21-23; Prov. 3:27; 16:13).
6. God's providence is seen in how he caused Esther to "move to the front of the line" in the selection process (2:8-15) and how he caused Mordecai to be honored (2:21-23; Prov. 16:1, 4, 9, 33; 21:1; 19:21; 20:24).