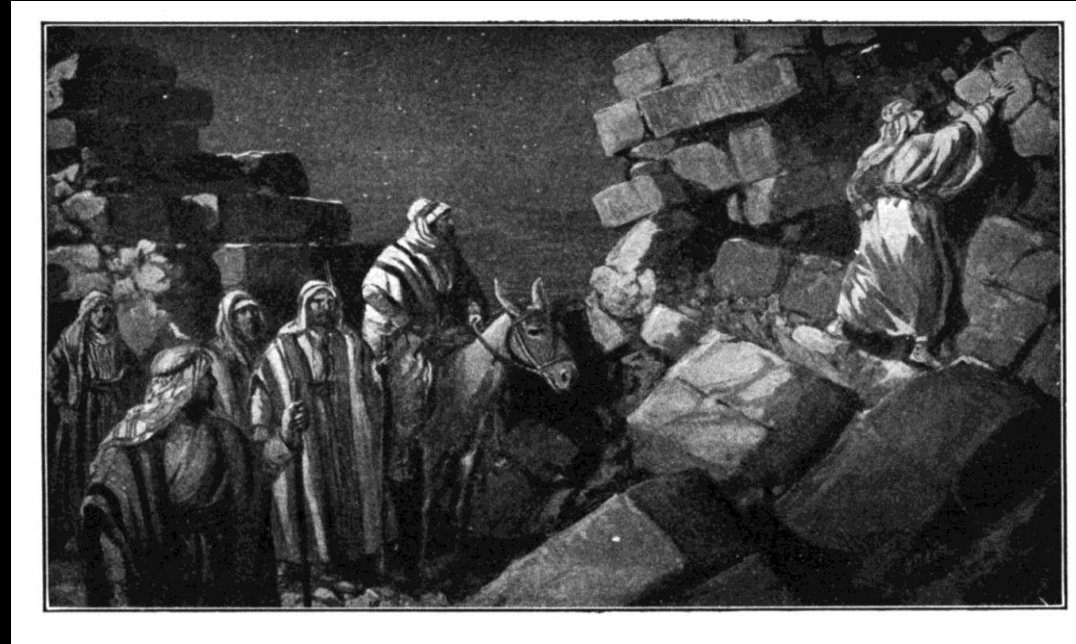


A Time to Build





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)

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)

Applications for Today

1. God's people will always have enemies and adversaries (7:4, 6; 1 Cor. 16:9; Phil. 1:28).
2. Out of the heart comes evil plans and actions (7:5; Mt. 9:4; 15:19).
3. Never be afraid to identify publicly the Lord's enemies and adversaries, and do so by name, if necessary (7:6; 1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 1:15; 2:17; 4:14; Tit. 1:12).

Applications for Today

4. Open rebuke is necessary at times (7:6; Prov. 27:5).
5. Speak good and do good to others around you (7:9; Acts 10:38; 1 Pet. 3:11).
6. You reap what you sow (7:9-10; Gal. 6:7).

Direct Confrontation of Wrong-Doing

- Psalm 141:5
- Proverbs 9:7-8; 10:17; 12:1; 13:1, 18; 15:5, 10, 12, 32; 16:22; 17:10; 19:25; 24:24-25; 25:12; 27:5-6; 28:23; 29:1, 17, 19
- Mt. 18:15-17; Lk. 17:3-4
- 1 Tim. 5:20

Direct Confrontation of Wrong-Doing

- Why do many people not engage in open rebuke?
- What is the benefit of open rebuke?

Direct Confrontation of Wrong-Doing

- **Moses** – he confronted Aaron directly about his allowing the people to build the calf (Ex. 32:21)
- **Samuel** – he confronted Saul directly about his disobedience (1 Sam. 15:10-31)
- **Nathan** – he confronted David directly about his sin with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 12:7-15)

Direct Confrontation of Wrong-Doing

- **Esther** – she confronted Haman directly about his plan to destroy the Jews (Esther 7:6)
- **John the Baptist** – he confronted the Jews directly about their sin (Mt. 3:7-12)
- **John the Baptist** – he confronted Herod about his unlawful marriage to Herodias (Mk. 6:18)

Direct Confrontation of Wrong-Doing

- **Jesus** – he confronted Peter directly concerning his resistance (Mt. 16:23)
- **Jesus** – he confronted the scribes and Pharisees directly about their hypocrisy (Mt. 23:1-36)
- **Peter** – he confronted the Jews directly about their crucifixion of Jesus (Acts 2:36; 3:13-15)

Direct Confrontation of Wrong-Doing

- **Peter** – he confronted Ananias/Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) and Simon (Acts 8:20-24) directly about their sins
- **Paul** – he confronted Elymas directly about his resistance (Acts 13:10)
- **Paul** – he confronted Peter directly about his hypocrisy (Gal. 2:11-14)

Direct Confrontation of Wrong-Doing

- John – he confronted five of the churches of Asia directly concerning their sins (Rev. 2-3)