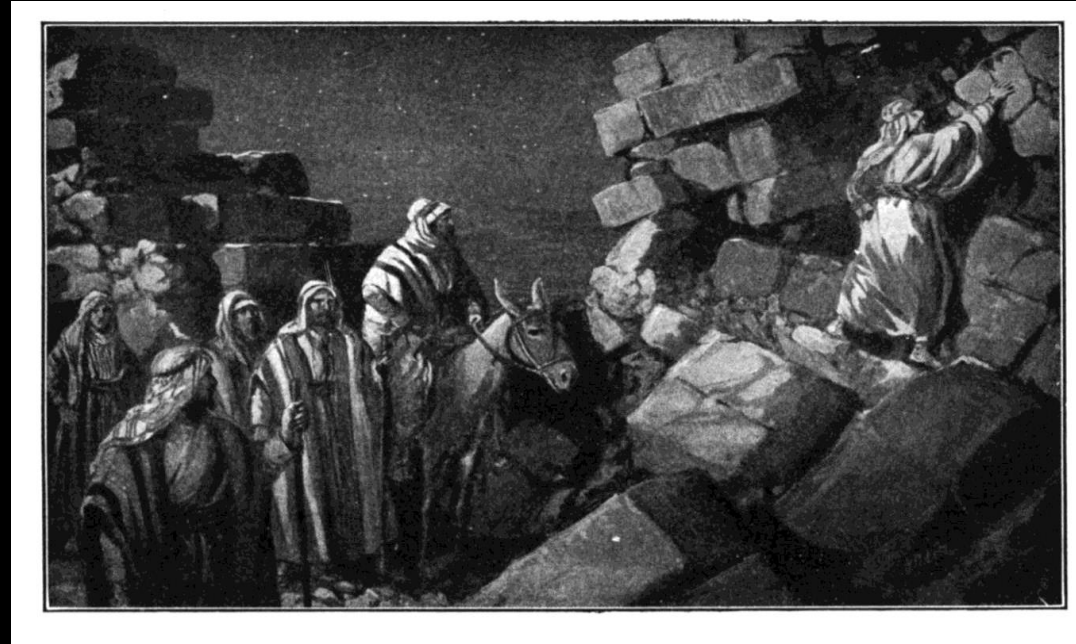


A Time to Build

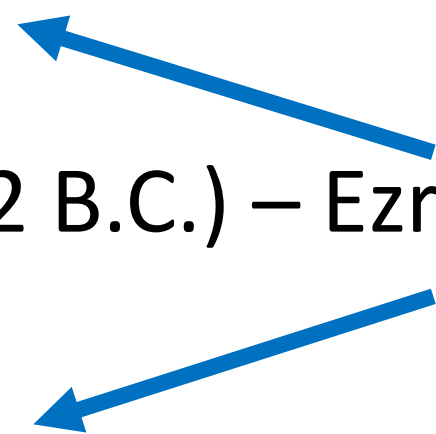


A Study of the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

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 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 Pride of Life

- Israelite (Deut. 8:14; 17:20), Uzziah (2 Chron. 26:16), Hezekiah (2 Chron. 32:25-26), and Tyre (Ezek. 28:2, 5, 17) – **when I am successful**
- Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 4:30; 5:20) – **what I have made**
- Herod (Acts 12:23) – **the praises I have received**
- The selfish person (Rom. 1:30; 2 Tim. 3:2) – **when I love myself too much**

Applications for Today

1. When you go from joy to anger quickly, there may be something wrong with your character (5:9; Gal. 5:20).
2. Pride goes before destruction (5:10-12; Prov. 16:18; Esther 6:13).
3. When you brag about your earthly successes without any spiritual content you are likely laying up treasures for yourself and you are not rich toward God (5:10-12; Lk. 12:13-21).

Applications for Today

4. Don't let other people define how you view your life; let God define you with his word (5:13; 1 Cor. 4:1-4; Gal. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:1).
5. Be careful from whom you get your counsel (Prov. 12:5). Some people are inventors of evil things and they want you to be a part of their evil schemes (5:14; Psa. 37:12ff; Prov. 6:16-19; Rom. 1:30).