



Esther: Queen For Such A Time As This.

Lesson One: Introduction to Esther

Outline of Esther

Part One: The Threat to the Jews (Chapters 1-4)

1. The Selection of Esther as Queen (1:1-2:20)
 - a. The Divorce of Vashti (1:1-22)
 - b. The Marriage to Esther (2:1-20)
2. The Formulation of the Plot by Haman (2:21-4:17)
 - a. Mordecai Reveals the Plot to Murder the King (2:21-23)
 - b. Haman Plots to Murder the Jews (3:1-4:17)

Part Two: The Triumph of the Jews (Chapters 5-10)

1. The Triumph of Mordecai Over Haman (5:1-8:3)
 - a. Setting for the Triumph (5:1-6:3)
 - b. Mordecai is Honored (6:4-14)
 - c. Haman Dies on Gallows Prepared for Mordecai (7:1-10)
 - d. Mordecai is Given Haman's House (8:1-3)
2. The Triumph of Israel Over Enemies (8:4-10:3)
 - a. Preparation for the Victory of Israel (8:4-17)
 - b. Israel's Victory Over Enemies (9:1-16)
 - c. Israel's Celebration (9:17-10:3)

(Copied from Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts)

Important People in The Book of Esther

- Esther, aka Hadassah. A Jewess in exile.
- Ahasuerus, aka Xerxes. King of Persia.
- Mordecai. Close relative of Esther.
- Vashti. Queen of Persia (for awhile).
- Haman. Influential enemy of the Jews.

Notable Things in the Study of Esther

- Modesty
- God's name
- Providence
- Opportunity
- Jealousy
- Feast of Purim

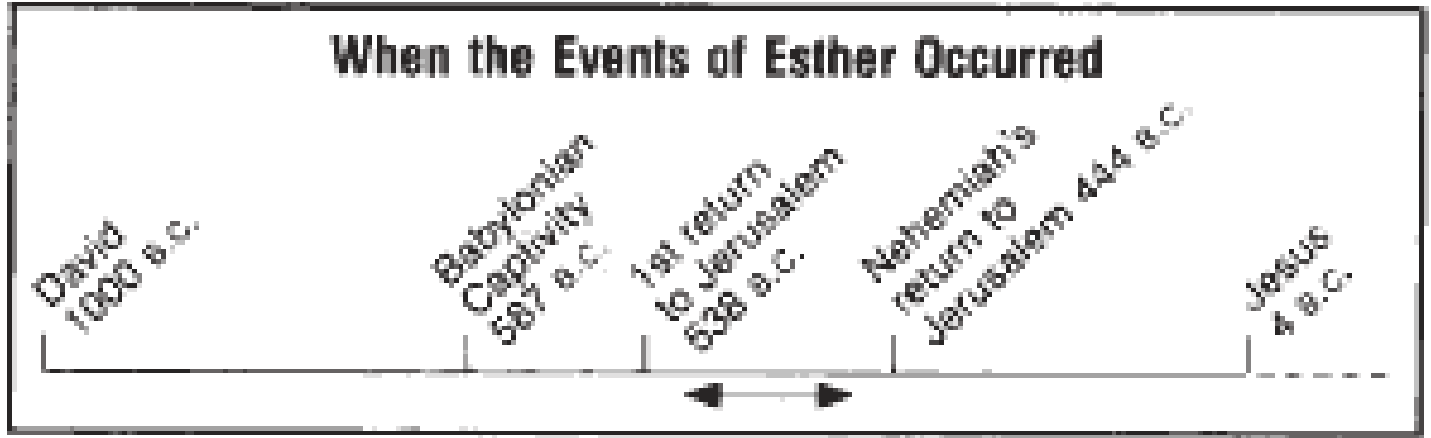
The Historical Setting of Esther

The events recorded in this book took place in the reign of Ahasuerus, otherwise called Xerxes. ... This king began to reign about fifty years after the decree of Cyrus permitting the Jews to return to their own land, and consequently, the events of the book, though they belong to the history of the Jews in exile, occurred between fifty and sixty years after the close of the seventy years predicted by Jeremiah. In other words, they occurred among those Jews who chose, after the proclamation of Cyrus, to remain in foreign lands.

The book gives an account of a crisis in the history of the Jewish people. A decree was sent forth by the king that every Jew in his kingdom should be put to death on a certain day. The circumstance which led to the issuing of this decree, and the measures by which the calamity was averted, constitute the subject matter of the book, and they present a most remarkable series of divine providences. In Esther the name of God is not once mentioned. The reader is left to discover God's hand for himself

(A Guide to Bible Study by J.W. McGarvey)

Time of Esther



Map During the Time of Esther.

