

ESTHER

AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #17



AUTHOR: UNKNOWN



WRITTEN: 450 BC

Covering the time period of 480-475 BC

17

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

BOOK HIGHLIGHTS:

The only book in the Bible where the name “God” and “Lord” is not mentioned.

BOOK SUMMARY:

- The story of Esther is the account of a Israelite woman who becomes queen of a different country and is used to prevent genocide of the Jewish people.

KEY VERSES:

For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? ***Esther 4:14***

Important Points about the Book:

- The book takes place in Shushan, east of the Tigris River, which is now part of Iraq. It is the only Bible story to take place east of what is thought to be the Garden of Eden.
- In Chapters 1 & 2, Esther becomes queen. Esther's cousin, Mordecai, adopted her after she was orphaned and before she became queen. Chapter 4 features Mordecai discovering a plot to have all the Jewish people in the kingdom executed. The evil plot was started by Haman.
- Esther was able to talk to her husband the king out of genocide through a combination of wits and humility with direction and support from Mordecai.
- The evil Haman ended up being killed on the very same gallows he had designed to kill the Jewish people in Chapter 7.
- King Ahasuerus (husband of Esther the queen) cancelled the plot and, in Chapter 10 (the last chapter of the book), Mordecai was promoted to second in command.

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Esther is one of two books in the Bible named after a woman. Ruth was a Gentile who married a Jew; Esther was a Jew who married a Gentile. Esther was a Jewish maiden under captivity of Media-Persia who became the queen of Persia. God used Esther to protect His people from the destruction of Haman and his sons.

Mordecai reveals an example of obeying God rather than man and the proper attitude of the public servant **(10:3)**. Esther is opposed by many "Bible scholars" to being included in scripture because the words *God* and *LORD* are not found, but the book reveals more about the hidden workings of God than any other book in the Bible.



NUMBER OF
CHAPTERS:
10



TYPE:
HISTORY



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BREAKDOWNS

Esther 1	Queen Vashti disobeys King Ahasuerus
Esther 2	Esther is made Queen
Esther 3	Haman plots to destroy Mordecai and the Jews
Esther 4	Mordecai seeks the help of Queen Esther
Esther 5	Esther prepares a banquet; Haman is mad
Esther 6	Mordecai honored by King Ahasuerus
Esther 7	Esther exposes Haman and the plot
Esther 8	King Ahasuerus acts on behalf of the Jews
Esther 9	The Jews get to destroy their enemies
Esther 10	The final tribute to Mordecai

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT NEHEMIAH:

- Chapters: 10
- Verses: 167
- Words: 5633
- Esther was actually her Persian name. Her Jewish name was Hadassah
- The book of Esther fits between the 6th and 7th chapters of Ezra, utilizing 5-10 of the 58 years during that gap, and somewhere in the 81-year period between the return led by Ezra and the one led by Zerubbabel.

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD SEEN IN THE BOOK WHERE HIS NAME DOES NOT APPEAR:

- ⇒ He ensures that Mordecai's deeds are recorded in the palace records (6:2-3).
- ⇒ He guides Esther's admission to the king's court (2:8).
- ⇒ He guides the timing of Esther's two feasts (2:18 and 5:4).
- ⇒ He involved in Ahasuerus's insomnia and the cure he uses of it (6:1).
- ⇒ He sees that Haman's gallows will be used in an unexpected way (7:9-10).
- ⇒ He gives Esther great favor in the sight of the king (2:9).
- ⇒ He brings about the new decree (8:7-15)
- ⇒ He brings about victory for the Jews (chapters 8 & 9).