

Esther - “For Such a Time as This”

From Whom: Its author is anonymous; however, some believe Mordecai, (Esther’s cousin and guardian), wrote it (perhaps during or shortly after 9:29).

“Then Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim.” - *NASB*

To Whom: This is one of the two books of the Old Testament named for a woman. While Ruth is the story of a Gentile who married a Jew, Esther is the story of a Jewess who married a Gentile.

What/ Theme: Its purpose is to demonstrate God’s love and sovereignty in all circumstances. It is a post-exile story about Jews who stayed behind after most returned to Jerusalem after captivity. Babylon was conquered by Persia and Esther miraculously becomes the queen of the land and saves her people.

Where/ Notable People: The key personalities are Esther, Mordecai, King Ahasuerus (or Xerxes), and Haman.

Consideration for Bible Students: Rather than a name, “Ahasuerus” is a title meaning “high father.” This Ahasuerus is probably the Xerxes mentioned in Ezra 4:7. The real purpose for the elaborate banquet (1:3) that took a remarkable 180 days to finish, was to impress the nobles of his kingdom and to enlist their enthusiastic support for a campaign against Greece. A campaign that would not go well, and that would eventually lead to the rise of Alexander the Great.

Outline:

1. Esther Replaces Vashti (1:1–2:18)
2. God Overcomes Haman through Esther & Mordecai (2:19–7:10)
3. Israel Survives Haman’s Genocide Attempt (8:1–10:3)

ESTHER AT A GLANCE				
Focus	Threat To The Jews		Triumph Of The Jews	
Reference	1:1 ————— 2:21		5:1 ————— 8:4 ————— 10:3	
Division	Selection Of Esther As Queen	Formulation Of The Plot By Haman	Triumph Of Mordecai Over Haman	Triumph Of Israel Over Her Enemies
Topic	Feasts Of Ahasuerus		Feasts Of Esther And Purim	
	Grave Danger		Great Deliverance	
Location	Persia			
Time	10 Years (483–473 B.C.)			

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