

Bible Reading Notes

Esther

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Esther 1

The book of Esther covers the period that begins in 484 BC and lasts for about 10 years. Chronologically it takes place between Ezra 6 and 7. It is the story of God's sovereign rule over all things for the good of his people.

1:17 – Queen Vashti's refusal is viewed as serious out of fear that it might cause other women to follow her example. This is reinforced in the king's decree recorded in v. 22.

1:22 – master in his own household – This is an unbiblical notion. Husbands are to be heads of their wives but to exercise that headship in sacrificial love (Ephesians 5).

Esther 2

2:6 – Jeconiah – He is referred to elsewhere as Jehoiachin. His captivity began in 597 BC.

2:7 – Hadassah = Myrtle. **Esther** = Star.

2:12 – This was a similar process that Daniel and his friends underwent when they were first taken captive (Daniel 1).

Esther 3

3:1 – Agagite – He was a descendent of the Amalekites, sworn enemies of Israel, whom the Lord had commanded Israel to wipe out (Deuteronomy 25:17-19).

3:9 – Haman is so desperate to kill the Jews that he offers to pay a huge bribe to accomplish it.

Esther 4

4:14 – such a time as this – In God's providence, we all are called in a particular time to do the work he has called us individually to do.

4:16 – do not eat or drink – This is the most extreme of the fasts in Scripture – a total fast of all nourishment and liquids.

Esther 5

5:1 – third day – of the fast.

5:14 – fifty cubits high = 75' high. Haman apparently wanted Mordecai's death to be a spectacle.

Esther 6-7

6:6 – Haman's great pride, that he revealed in 5:11-12, will now result in his being humbled.

7:8 – covered Haman's face – Graphic picture of the king yelling in anger at Haman while their faces were inches apart.

Esther 8-10

8:11 – The decree of the king could not be reversed (v. 8), but the new decree gave the Jews the right to defend themselves and indicated the king's desire that the Jews not be annihilated.

9 – The killing of chapter 9 must be viewed in the context of the great spiritual battle and determination of Satan to destroy the covenant people and thus the Messianic seed.

9:10, 15, 16 – did not lay their hands on the plunder – The fact that the Jews did not take the plunder from those who were killed (vv. 10, 15, 16), indicates that they did not take part for personal gain.

9:28 – Purim – Is still celebrated by Jews in the spring of the year.

10:3 – second in rank – Mordecai is lifted up, as Joseph had been, to second to the king. Haman's plans for Mordecai are fully reversed.