

The Book of Esther



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The Book of Esther

Lesson 1

Welcome to the book of Esther! This Old Testament narrative is one of the most sublime and mysterious books of the Bible. For example, King Xerxes of Persia is mentioned 190 times in the 167 verses of Esther, while God is not mentioned at all, not even once. There are no references to prayer, forgiveness, love, Old Testament ceremonial sacrifices, the covenant, the Law, the temple or Jerusalem. Yet the providential, sovereign hand of God in the affairs of men is written all over this book.

The account of Queen Esther, her older cousin Mordecai and the fate of the Jewish people throughout the Medo-Persian Empire is a tightly woven story, full of intrigue, irony and suspense. The events of this historical narrative form the basis of a major Jewish festival that commemorates God's mighty deliverance of His people from certain death and annihilation, a holiday that is celebrated annually to this day. And while these events continue to bring glory to God, they also offer hope and encouragement to His people today, that when we are confronted with hardship and persecution, we can also expect God to work sovereignly through providence to bring about our ultimate deliverance.

The author of the book of Esther is unknown. However, scholars generally agree that the book was in all likelihood written by a Jew (some suggest Mordecai, one of the main characters), sometime between 465-424 BC. It covers a span of 10 to 20 years 486 to 465 BC during the time of King Xerxes (Ahasuerus in Hebrew) ruled the Medo-Persian Empire from the capital in Susa, located approximately 150 miles north of the Persian Gulf.

As you begin, would you take a moment to pray and ask God to help you gain insight and understanding of His Word?

A King's Banquet – A Queen Deposed

1. Read Esther 1:1-22.
 - A. Who are the two main characters in the narrative?

 - B. How would you describe each of them?

 - C. Who are some of the other individuals mentioned in chapter 1?

2. Read Esther 1:1-4.
 - A. Consult a Biblical map of the time of the Medo-Persian Empire and generally describe the boundaries of the kingdom.

 - B. From where does King Xerxes reign?

C. What does he decide to do?

- (1) When in his reign does he decide to do it?
- (2) For whom does he decide to do it?
- (3) For how long does he decide to do it?
- (4) For what purpose does he decide to do it?
- (5) From a footnote or your knowledge of ancient history, what may have been an unstated purpose of King Xerxes for displaying his wealth at such length?
- (6) From Deuteronomy 8:17-18 and 1 Chronicles 29:12-13, what was to be the King's attitude toward wealth? What is ours to be?

3. Read Esther 1:5-12.
 - A. After the 180-day period, what does the king decide to do?
 - B. Who is invited?
 - C. How long is the banquet to occur? What is your perspective on the length of this banquet?
 - D. From verses 5-8, describe the setting and the festivities of this banquet. How does the King show his generosity to his guests?
 - E. From verse 9, what does Queen Vashti decide to do?
4. From verses 10-12:
 - A. What happens on the seventh day?
 - B. How does Queen Vashti respond to the King?

C. Do you think her response was appropriate? Please explain.

D. What was the King's response?

E. Do you think his response was appropriate? Please explain.

5. Read Ephesians 5:22-32. How are kings and queens, and by way of application, husbands and wives, to respond to one another?

6. Read Esther 1:13-18.

A. From verses 13-15, what does the King decide to do?

B. From verses 16-18, what concerns do the counselors raise to the King?

(1) Since the King and Queen occupy high visibility positions, are these concerns legitimate? Why or why not? Are there others factors to be considered?

- (2) Do “lines of authority” (whether public or private), the example one sets, and the kind of public or private behavior have any impact upon society as a whole? Please explain.

- (3) From the Bible, history or current society, can you identify individuals or couples who have influenced society for good or ill? Who are they? What were/are their characteristics and actions? What made/makes their influence upon society so powerful?

C. Read Romans 13:1-5, Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:13 and 1 Timothy 2:1-3.

- (1) How are we to respond to governing authorities?

- (2) Why?

- (3) Read John 19:1-11.
- (a) How does Jesus acknowledge the principle expressed in Romans 13:1-5, Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:13 and 1 Timothy 2:1-3?
- (b) Read Matthew 28:16-20. Since all authority in Heaven and earth has been given to Jesus, why do you think He responded to Pilate as He did? What applications for your life might be drawn from the above passages?
- (4) What are the consequences for rebelling against those in authority?
- (5) From Acts 4:5-21, describe what is occurring and under what conditions it is permissible to disobey authorities.

D. Romans 13:3-4 reads: “For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from the fear of the one in authority? Then do right and he will commend you. For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” Read Exodus 14:10-18 and Joshua 10:40-42. From these or other Bible passages, is war ever justifiable? Why or why not?

7. Read Esther 1:19-22.

A. What recommendation is made to the King?

B. From verse 19, what is unique about the “laws of Persia and Media”?

C. Is this a good principle of government? Why or why not?

D. How do the King and his nobles respond to the recommendations?

E. What does the King do? Please record any actions of the King that stand out to you?

The Book of Esther

Lesson 2

Chapter 1 of the book of Esther provides the background and setting for the story and fate of God's people remaining in exile during the reign of King Xerxes of Persia. Presiding over the vast Media-Persia empire, the King is a ruler who is arrogant and yet gracious, strong and yet weak, foolish and yet wise, while Queen Vashti is portrayed as both beautiful and principled. Her refusal to be "displayed" at a banquet before the King and his nobles, who were in high spirits from wine, leads to her banishment as Queen. Chapter 2 introduces Mordecai and Esther into the narrative.

As you begin, would you take a moment to pray and ask the Lord to give you insight and understanding into His precious written word?

Esther Made Queen

1. Read Esther 2:1 along with Esther 1:19. Describe the thoughts, feelings and emotions King Xerxes might have had as he remembered Queen Vashti, what she had done, and what he had decreed about her.

4. In Esther 2:5-6, a new person is introduced into the historical narrative.

A. What is his name?

B. Describe his background.

C. I Samuel 8:10-21; 9:1-2; 10:17-24; 15:1-35 and Philippians 3:4-10 describe two other prominent individuals from the tribe of Benjamin. From these passages, as well as your general knowledge of the scriptures, compare and contrast these two individuals.

5. Read Esther 2:7-11.

A. Describe the outward appearance and the implied inward qualities of the heart of Hadassah (Esther), the fourth major character in the story.

- B. As a young girl how might she have suffered?
- C. From verses 8 and 9, what kind of initial impression does Esther make with the King's eunuch Hegai? How does Hegai respond to her?
- D. From verses 10 and 11, describe the likely relationship between Mordecai and Esther.
- (1) What specifically had Mordecai directed Esther not to do?
 - (2) From Daniel 1:1-17 and referring back to verse 9, what similarities and differences do you note between the situation facing Esther and Daniel?

(3) What do you glean and learn about the sovereignty and providence of God in these situations?

E. From verse 11 and James 1:27, what does Mordecai do? How does he fulfill a principle of religion that “God our Father accepts as pure and faultless”?

6. Read Esther 2:12-14.

A. What was the process by which a woman made herself ready to see the King?

B. Where would she go after her “visit’ with the King?

- (1) Define “concubine.”

- (2) Does this change your perception of Esther as a person?
Why or why not?

C. Under what condition could she return to the King?

D. The principle of being summoned (or called) by name by a sovereign is clearly established in the Old Testament book of Esther. This principle is restated and confirmed many times in the New Testament, including the gospel of John, where Jesus in a heated debate with His detractors, uses figures of speech to make His point. Read John 10: 1-18 and 22-30.

- (1) Who is the Good Shepherd?

- (2) Who are the strangers, thieves and robbers?

- (3) Who are the sheep?

- (4) In what manner are the sheep called?

- (5) What does the Good Shepherd do for the sheep?

- (6) How do the sheep respond to the Good Shepherd? Why?

- (7) If you are one of the sheep in the Good Shepherd's fold, how do you feel?

- (8) From this passage as well as from your overall understanding of the scriptures, what does the Bible teach regarding definite atonement? For whom did Jesus die?

C. Read verses 15 and 17. What kind of impression did Esther make in the court of King Xerxes and in her visit with the King?

D. Review Esther 1. What comparisons and contrasts can you make? between

(1) the banquets of Queen Vashti and Esther

(2) the attitudes, reactions and responses of King Xerxes to Queen Vashti and Esther?

9. Compare Esther 2:16 with Esther 1:3. How much time has elapsed from the events recorded in chapter one with those in chapter two?

10. Read verses 19-23.

A. How does Esther, now Queen, continue to show respect and honor for Mordecai?

B. What happens during the time Mordecai is sitting at the King's gate? What does Mordecai do?

C. What does Esther do? What is the result of her action and what additionally do you learn about her?

The Book of Esther

Lesson 3

In the previous lesson, two of the five main characters were introduced to us in chapter two. These characters are Mordecai and his younger cousin Esther, who is taken into the King's harem as part of his plan to select someone to replace Queen Vashti. Mordecai and Esther enjoy a close relationship of mutual love and respect in which Mordecai serves as a surrogate father for Esther, while she honors and respects him for watching over and protecting her.

After twelve months of preparation in the harem, Esther wins the King's heart and favor and is crowned queen. Meanwhile, Mordecai uncovers a plot against the King, which while noted in the annals of the king is not rewarded at the time. This oversight figures prominently in the rest of the story.

Chapter two also notes the right of a sovereign to allow into his presence only those he summons by name. This reminds us that our Sovereign King, the Lord Jesus Christ, knows each of His own by name and summons and calls them into His presence. As our Good Shepherd, Jesus lays down His life for us, taking our sin upon Himself, giving us in exchange His righteousness and promising never to leave or forsake us.

In chapter three, we meet the fifth and final major character. Before beginning your study, would you take a moment to pray and ask God for help in understanding His Word?

Haman Plots to Destroy the Jews

1. Read Esther 3:1-4.
 - A. What is the name of the fifth major character?
 - B. Whose son is he?
 - C. What does King Xerxes do for Haman?
 - D. What does the King require of all the other royal officials and nobles regarding Haman? Why do you think he does this?
 - E. From verse 2, how does Mordecai respond to the King's command?
 - F. From verses 3 and 4:
 - (1) What do the royal officials ask of Mordecai?
 - (2) What action do they initiate toward him?
 - (3) What is Mordecai's response to them? Why?

(4) In light of Mordecai's response, what else do the royal officials decide to do? Why?

2. Read Esther 3:5-6.

A. What does Haman observe about Mordecai?

B. What is Haman's reaction to Mordecai's behavior? Do you think his reaction is justified? Why or why not?

C. What does Haman propose to do to Mordecai and his people? Why the intense animosity?

3. To better understand the animosity between Haman and Mordecai (including all of the Jews) and to illustrate the principle of the sovereignty of God, read Romans 9:1-18, Malachi 1:1-5 and Genesis 25:19-34.

A. As you reflect upon these passages, what most stands out to you?

- B. Contrast how Jacob and Esau differ in attitude toward birthright. Why do you think the Lord had regard for Jacob but not Esau?
- C. Read Genesis 36:9-12, Exodus 17:8-16, Deuteronomy 25:17-19 and 1 Samuel 15:1-35.
- (1) How are Esau, Amalek, the Amelikes and King Agag related to one another?
 - (2) From Exodus 20:4-5, 1 Samuel 15:1-35 (particularly verses 12 and 22-23), what did King Saul do to displease the Lord?
 - (3) How do these passages illustrate the truth that “sin has its consequences” and “to obey is better than sacrifice”?
 - (4) How are the long-term consequences of sin and disobedience realized in Esther 3:5-6?

D. Personal Application: Have you ever been faced with the challenge to obey rather than sacrifice? If so, which did you choose? Why? What happened? What did you learn from your experience?

4. From 1 John 1:8-9, Psalm 32:1-7 and Romans 5:8, 8:1 and 8:31-39, how are we to deal with sin? Why does God tell us this?

5. Read Esther 3:7, Leviticus 16:1-10 and Proverbs 16:33.

A. What does it mean to “cast the pur” (i.e. cast the lot) and how was it used in the Leviticus passage?

B. According to Proverbs 16:33, who is responsible for the outcome of the lot?

- C. Read Jonah 1:1-17. Describe how the principle of “the lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord” is realized in this passage.

- D. Read Acts 1:12-26. How is the casting of lots used in this passage?

- E. Have you experienced the casting of lots or its equivalent? If so, please describe the circumstances and outcome.

6. Read Esther 3:8-15.

- A. What accusations does Haman make to the King? Were these charges true? Why or why not?

- B. What other individuals in the Bible were falsely accused?

- C. What does Haman propose to the King?

- D. How does the King respond to Haman's proposal?

- E. What does Haman do? What orders does he give to the King's satraps, province governors and nobles?

- F. After the edict was issued, what did the King and Haman do?

- G. What was the reaction to these orders in the city of Susa? Why do you think the city reacted as it did? What is your reaction?

The Book of Esther

Lesson 4

In lesson three, the last of the five main characteristics of the Book of Esther is introduced to us. He is Haman, son of Hammedatha the Agagite. As we saw, King Xerxes promoted Haman to a seat of honor higher than all the other nobles in his kingdom and ordered that all the officials and nobles at his gate to bow down in subjection to Haman. Mordecai, however, refuses to bow, citing the fact that he is a Jew. His refusal infuriates Haman, who plots to not only destroy Mordecai but all the Jews in the kingdom, thus continuing the centuries old conflict between God's people, represented by Jacob and his descendants, and those outside the line of promise, represented by Esau and his descendants. As we learned, sin has consequences and to obey is better than sacrifice.

We also learned the casting of the pur (lot) and how it was used to determine the date upon which all the Jews were to be annihilated. We saw that "the lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord" (Proverbs 16:33). To confirm this principle, we examined some additional passages in the Bible that focused on the casting of lots and how the decisions of the lot were indeed from the Lord.

In this lesson, we will see Mordecai at his best as he persuades Queen Esther to help thwart Haman's evil plot against the Jews. Risking her life, Queen Esther displays great personal courage and wisdom as the story continues to escalate to a suspenseful, ironic climax.

As you begin the lesson, please take a moment to pray and ask God for help providing you wisdom, discernment, knowledge and joy in understanding and applying His Word.

Mordecai Persuades Esther to Help

1. Read Esther 3:12-4:17. Haman's orders, written in the name of King Xerxes, had quite an effect on a number of people. Note below the reaction of:
 - A. Haman and the King.
 - B. The people in the capital city of Susa.
 - C. Mordecai.
 - D. The Jews.
 - E. Esther.

2. Read Esther 4:1-3 again.
 - A. Use a dictionary to define *mourning*.
 - B. Why were the Jews and Mordecai mourning?
 - C. How did they display their grief?

D. How do people in your country often display their grief during times of mourning?

3. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-3. What does this passage say about mourning?

4. From Matthew 5:4, what does Jesus say about those who mourn?

5. The Scriptures contain a number of promises of God to His people. What do the following verses affirm about these promises for those who mourn?

A. Isaiah 61:1-3

B. Jeremiah 31:10-13

C. Revelation 21:1-5

6. Read Romans 12:15.
 - A. By the way of application, what does this verse teach that we are to do regarding those who mourn?

 - B. From examples of the Bible and/or from your experience, how can we best do this?

 - C. How have you been comforted during times of mourning?

7. Read Esther 4:4-9. What does Mordecai recommend to Esther in order to counter the plan Haman has hatched to annihilate the Jews?

8. From verses 10 and 11, what is Esther's response to Mordecai?

9. Read Esther 4:12-17.
 - A. What in turn is Mordecai's reply to Esther?

B. How does his answer:

- (1) Challenge Esther?
- (2) Inspire and motivate Esther?
- (3) Reveal his belief and trust in the sovereignty of God?

C. How does Esther's reply:

- (1) Instruct Mordecai?
- (2) Reveal her courage?
- (3) Exhibit her belief and trust in the sovereignty of God?

D. What is Mordecai's response to Esther?

10. Read Ephesians 5:21. How does the relationship between Mordecai and Esther reflect the essence of this principle, especially as it relates to their unstated but clearly implied trust in the sovereignty of God?

The Book of Esther

Lesson 5

In chapter 4 we read that Haman's plot to annihilate Mordecai's people caused great consternation, mourning and grief among the Jews. We also noted that according to Ecclesiastes 3:4 there is a time and a season for every activity under heaven, including a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.

We studied what it means to mourn and examined several Scripture passages, including "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). We also learned that a time will come when "God himself will be with his people. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, or mourning or crying or pain for the old order of things will have passed away" (Revelation 21:3, 4). From Paul's letter to the Romans, we saw that we are exhorted to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15).

Upon hearing of and reading the king's edict to destroy the Jews, Mordecai challenges, inspires and motivates Queen Esther to intercede on behalf of her people by noting that perhaps she has been elevated to her position of honor "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). Even though she risks death if she appears before the king in the inner court without being summoned, Esther displays great personal courage by telling Mordecai she will plead the case for her people. She says, "If I perish I perish" (Esther 4:16).

However, before she appears before the king, she asks Mordecai and the other Jews in Susa to fast for three days and nights, consuming no food or drink. She indicates that she and her maids will do the same, these attitudes and actions implicitly seeking the hand and favor of God, while she prepares to appear before the king without being summoned.

In preparing to do this lesson, will you take a minute to pray and ask God for help in understanding His Word that you might grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and His Christ, Jesus of Nazareth?

Esther's Request to King Xerxes

Esther 5:1-8

1. Besides fasting, that we might be led by the Spirit, what do the following verses suggest by way of principle or promise that we should apply to our own lives when facing a major crisis?
 - A. Psalm 145:18

 - B. Isaiah 55:6-8

 - C. Jeremiah 33:2, 3

 - D. Jeremiah 29:11-13

 - E. Lamentations 3:25, 26

 - F. Psalm 62:5-8

G. Psalm 37:5-7

H. Isaiah 40:30, 31

I. James 1:5

J. Proverbs 3:5,6

K. Psalm 128:1, 2

L. John 8:12

2. From your knowledge of the Bible or your own experience, can you think of any time where these principles or promises have been appropriated and/or applied? If so, please describe the circumstances and the outcome.

3. Read Esther 5:1-8.
 - A. After three days of fasting, what does Esther do?

 - B. What can we glean from her action?

 - C. From Matthew 6:16-18, what does Jesus say our attitude and demeanor should be when we fast?

 - D. What is the king's first reaction to the appearance of Queen Esther in the court?
 - (1) What does he say to her?

 - (2) Do you think he literally means what he says? Why or why not?

 - (3) How does Esther respond to the king?

(4) What happens next?

(5) From verse 6, what question does the king ask for the second time and what is Esther's reply to him? Why do you think Esther replied to the king in the way she did?

E. What principles are stated in Hebrews 11:1, 6 and 2 Corinthians 5:7?

Haman's Rage Against Mordecai

4. Read Esther 5:9-14.

A. How does Haman interpret Queen Esther's invitation to dine with the king and her?

- B. After the banquet, what one factor darkens his mind and heart as he returns home?
- C. From verses 10-13, how does Haman recall the day's events with his family and friends?
- D. From verse 15, what counsel does Haman receive from his wife Zeresh and his friends regarding Mordecai? How does Haman respond to his counsel?
- E. What do the following verses say in regard to the attitude and actions of Haman?
- (1) Proverbs 11:2
- (2) Proverbs 16:18

(3) Proverbs 21:4

(4) I John 2:16

5. By way of contrast, what does Philippians 2:3-11 indicate should be our attitude and action toward others? Why?

Mordecai Honored

6. Read Esther 6:1-14. In the providence of God, how do King Xerxes, Haman and Mordecai illustrate the principles in the following passages?

A. Romans 8:28

B. Galatians 6:7-10

The Book of Esther

Lesson 6

In the last lesson, we discovered that Queen Esther and Mordecai were facing the biggest crises of their lives as the wicked Haman was preparing to annihilate all their people—the Jews young and old, men, women and children—in a single day. As in other times of pressure and high stress, the people of God turned to Him in an attitude of humility, accompanied by prayer and fasting, in order to make their appeal for mercy and deliverance.

In Psalm 145:18, we learn that the Lord is near to all those that call upon Him in truth. From James 1:5, we are encouraged to ask the Lord for wisdom, and in Psalm 37:5-7 we are told to commit our way to the Lord and to trust Him. Psalm 62 advises us to pour out our hearts to God and to wait upon Him, for our hope and expectation is from Him alone.

We also noted the dangers of pride. Haman's arrogant attitude and wicked actions remind us that "pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).

In marked contrast to the attitude and actions of Haman, the apostle Paul exhorts: "Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to your own interest but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped but emptied himself taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under earth, and every tongue

confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”
(Philippians 2:5-11).

As you study the last chapters of Esther in this lesson, may you have an open mind and teachable spirit, so that you might grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Haman Hanged

1. Read Esther 7:1-8:2. Once again the King invites Esther to make known her petition and request, for he is willing to meet her needs.
 - A. From verse 3, with what words and strategy does Queen Esther preface her remarks?
 - B. Do you agree with her approach?
 - C. What is her petition?
 - D. What is her request?
 - E. From verse 4, what is the rationale Esther uses in making her appeal to the King? What is her meaning? (See Amos 2:6.)

2. In verse 5, how does the King respond to Esther's petition?

3. From verse 6, how does Esther in turn respond to the King? What is Haman's reaction to Esther's remarks?

4. Read Esther 7:10-8:2.
 - A. Describe what happens next. How do Haman's actions serve only to make matters worse and seal his fate?

 - B. What sentence does the King impose upon Haman?

 - C. What ironies do you notice in this section of the story?

5. Read Esther 8:3-9:4.

A. From verses 3-6, what further appeal does Esther make to the King?

B. From Daniel 6:8 and 12 and Esther 1:19 and 3:12, why is this request not certain to be granted by the King?

C. From verses 7 and 8:

(1) How does the King show support for Queen Esther and Mordecai?

(2) What is his solution for solving their dilemma?

(3) How did many other nationalities react to the King's edict? Why?

(4) From Joshua 2, describe the circumstances in which great fear fell upon the enemies of the Jews.

- (5) Esther 8:17, 9:2-3, Joshua 2 and Exodus 14:10-14 and 21-25 all note that great fear fell upon the enemies of the Jews. What is the real reason they should be fearful?

The Triumph of the Jews

6. Read Esther 9-10:3.
- A. How were the tables turned in favor of the Jews?

 - B. From verse 7, what happened to the ten sons of Haman? From verses 13-14, what further indignity did they suffer?

 - C. Even though they had a legal right to protect themselves according to the King's edict, what moral restraint did the Jews exercise regarding their enemies? How does this contrast with the actions of King Saul centuries earlier? (See 1 Samuel 15:1-3, 7-9 and 17-19.)

D. What did Mordecai do to commemorate the Jews' victory over their enemies?

E. What is this annual celebration called? Why?

7. From Esther 10:2-3, what final recognition and honor is paid to Mordecai? Why?

8. Take a moment to reflect back on the book of Esther. What important lessons, principles or truths apply to the people of our day?

We would enjoy hearing your thoughts about this study. Share your comments: <http://www.cornerstonebiblestudy.org/contact-cornerstone/>

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The Book of Esther

The Old Testament book of Esther is one of the most sublime and mysterious of the Bible. God is not mentioned at all, not even once, and there are no references to prayer, forgiveness, love, Old Testament ceremonial sacrifices, the covenant, the Law, the temple or Jerusalem. Yet the providential, sovereign hand of God in the affairs of men is written all over this book.

The account of Queen Esther, her older cousin Mordecai and the fate of the Jewish people throughout the Medo-Persian Empire is a tightly woven story, full of intrigue, irony and suspense. The events of this historical narrative form the basis of a major Jewish festival that commemorates God's mighty deliverance of His people from certain death and annihilation, a holiday that is celebrated annually to this day. And while these events continue to bring glory to God, they also offer hope and encouragement to His people today, that when we are confronted with hardship and persecution, we can also expect God to work sovereignly through providence to bring about our ultimate deliverance.



Illustration by Bible Artist
<http://www.blogger.com/profile/bibleartist>

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Paul Berghaus is the Founder and Executive Director of The Cornerstone Foundation and the primary author, assisted by his wife Carolyn, of Cornerstone Bible Studies.

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