

Bible Study – Outline

Esther

The Courage of the Queen

Summary

How the Jewish festival of Purim came to be the celebration of the Jews' deliverance from the genocidal plot of Haman the Agagite.

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| <u>Time Period</u> | 479BC – Esther becomes Queen 474BC – Haman's decree to destroy the Jews 473BC – First Festival of Purim |
| | Book of Esther written circa 470BC Author – Unknown - possibly Mordecai, Ezra or Nehemiah |
| <u>Audience</u> | The Israelites who were still in Babylon |
| <u>Location</u> | Susa, Persia (Modern day Iran) |

Major Theme

Key People

King Xerxes of Persia
Queen Vashti
Esther
Mordecai
Haman

Haman the Agagite was an Amalekite. King Saul was ordered to eliminate the Amalekites but he spared king Agag.

Key Scriptures

Esther 2:17 The king is attracted to Esther

Esther 3:8 Haman convinces the king to eliminate the Jews

Esther 4:14

“If you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place....”

Esther 5:3 Esther has the courage to make a request of the king

Esther 5:9 Haman filled with rage against Mordecai

Esther 6:1 The king finds out about Mordecai’s memorable deed

Esther 6:7-9 Haman reaches the wrong conclusion as to who should be honoured.

Esther 7:10 Haman is hanged

Esther 9:17 Festival of Purim is established

Esther 10:3 Mordecai becomes great among the Jews

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

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|---|--------------|
| THE PERIL OF ESTHER, MORDECAI AND THE JEWS | 1-4 |
| The king selects Esther as his queen | 1:1 – 2:20 |
| Haman’s plot against Mordecai and the Jews | 2:21 – 4:17 |
| THE TRIUMPH OF ESTHER, MORDECAI AND THE JEWS | 5- 10 |
| Esther and Mordecai lay a trap for Haman | 5 |
| The king honours Mordecai | 6 |
| The execution of Haman | 7 |
| Mordecai receives the estate of Haman | 8:1-3 |
| Israel triumphs over her enemies | 8:4-9:32 |
| The eminence of Mordecai is recounted | 10 |

Discussion Questions

1. God's name is not mentioned in the Book of Esther – how is His influence shown in this book?
2. How is the courage of Esther an example for us today?
3. What does Haman use as the excuse to eliminate the Jews? (ch 3:8)
4. Could Esther have asked for Haman's head on a platter (5:3)? If so, what does her action of not asking for it represent?
5. Haman – a good illustration of “pride before a fall” (5:10-12)?
 - a. Prov. 11:2
 - b. Prov. 16:18
 - c. Prov. 29:23
6. What analogies can we derive from the Book of Esther?
 - Who does Haman represent?
 - Mordecai

Resources Used

www.biblestudytools.com

www.biblegateway.com

www.biblehub.com

www.raystedman.org

Adventuring Through the Bible by Ray Stedman

Life Application Bible – Charts and Notes – by Zondervan and Tyndale House Publishers