

Esther

Ahasuerus for Example

Unnamed, ever near ...

- I. Unsavory King
 - A. Xerxes
 - B. Vashti
- II. Unmatched Beauty
 - A. Esther the Jewish Girl
 - B. Esther the Persian Queen
- III. Unfriendly Acquaintances
 - A. Haman
 - B. Mordecai
- IV. Undermined Plot
 - A. Glorious Irony
 - B. Relief!
- V. Unceasing Celebration
 - A. Sorrow to Joy
 - B. Grand Celebration

... sovereign God.

Children, Listen ...

1. Why was Haman so mad at Mordecai?
2. What did evil Haman want to do to the Jewish people because of it?
3. Who did God use to ask King Ahasuerus to stop Haman's wicked plan?
4. What happens to Haman to Mordecai?
5. Even though He is not mentioned by name in the book, how do we know God is at work the whole time?

No Name Needed

The book of Esther is fascinating in so many ways. It takes us into the strange and sordid world of Persian royalty that makes us wince at its unsavory practices. God's people were subject to this empire after Babylonian rule was ushered out. This is a real-life story filled with captivating intrigue, amazing drama, remarkable "coincidences," maybe a little "romance," crazy divine irony and severe justice. There are crowns and commoners, villains and heroes, and like all good stories the good guys win in the end. But this is no fanciful tale or moral resolve triumphing over the powers of evil this is history, and most significantly directly tied into God's history of redemption. There are certainly colorful characters involved, but the central focus is really on God and His work. While God is not mentioned by name in Esther His presence is evidenced by His providence throughout the narrative. His sovereign rule is above it all and even the details of the shenanigans and intrigue in the king's court as He fulfills His design to preserve his people and make way for the Messiah in years to come.