

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(Esther)

-Canonicity? → Esther written for Jews living in an alien social environment

I. General Introduction to Esther

-Title/Author: named after the main character of the book; written by Mordecai (? See 9:20) or a younger contemporary of his

-Date/Structure: covers the period of Ahasuerus' reign (486-464 BC); written sometime after Ahasuerus' death (10:1-3)

I. Threat to the Jews (chs. 1-4)

A. Esther's Selection as Queen (chs. 1, 2)

B. Haman's Formulation of a Plot Against the Jews (chs. 3, 4)

II. Triumph of the Jews (chs. 5-10)

A. Mordecai's Triumph Over Haman (5-7)

B. The Jews' Triumph Over Their Enemies (8-10)

-Purpose/Theme: explain the origin of the Feast of Purim; demonstrate the power, goodness, and faithfulness of God in preserving and protecting His people

II. General Overview of Esther

First Return (538 BC)
Zerubbabel
Rebuild the Temple

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Second Return (458 BC)
Ezra
Reform the People

Third Return (445 BC)
Nehemiah
Rebuild Jerusalem

-Threat to the Jews (chs. 1-4)

-Triumph of the Jews (chs. 5-10)

III. Prominent People and Themes in Esther

-People: Esther; Mordecai; Ahasuerus; Haman

-Themes: God's Faithfulness; God's Sovereignty; Human Agency

IV. Christ in Esther

-In the Person of Esther

-In the Preservation of God's People

V. Practical Lessons in Esther

1) Beware of the snare of pride and vainglory (Prov. 16: 18; 25:27; 27:2).

2) God is faithful to preserve His people (Ps. 121:4; John 10:28, 29; Rom. 8:38, 39; Phil.1:6; 1 Pet. 1:5).

3) God uses people to accomplish His wise and holy purposes (Esth. 4:14; 2 Tim. 2:10).

4) God is faithful to fulfill His covenant promises (Is. 53:10, 11).