

Esther

Traditional Author: Unknown, perhaps written by Esther's cousin Mordecai?

Est 9:20a Mordecai recorded these events... NIV

Approximate Time of Writing: Written sometime after 460 B.C.

General Content: Historical Narrative. The book of Esther presents the marriage of Esther the Jew to the King of Persia and the Lord's protection of the Jewish people through her intervention. It is also a wonderful prophetic picture of the Bride of Christ. May have also been intended to encourage the Jewish people to remain true to their faith and to demonstrate to all believers that God is often working in our lives behind the scenes, even when we do not know it. The term "God" is never used in this book. It gives us the origin and early history of the **Jewish Festival of Purim**.

"The king's name "**Ahasuerus**" is derived from a Hebrew translation of his Persian name. "Xerxes" is used in many translations and it comes from the Greek version of his Persian name. Gesenius tells us that the Persian name means "lion king."

Gesenius Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon of the Old Testament

Types found in Esther for the Bride of Christ:

- Esther - Bride of Christ
- King Ahasuerus – King Jesus Christ
- Haman – Satan
- Mordecai and Heggai - Holy Spirit
- 9 Feasts - Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Key Verses:

Est 1:1 IT WAS in the days of Ahasuerus [Xerxes], the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces. AMP

Est 3:5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. 6 Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes. 7 In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, they cast the pur (that is, the lot) in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. NIV

Est 4:14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And **who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"** 15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." NIV

Esther

Chapter 1 The Persian King Ahasuerus and Queen Vashti feast.

v. 1 Ahasuerus ruled over 127 provinces/countries as King of Persian Empire.

Est 1:1 IT WAS in the days of Ahasuerus [Xerxes], the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces. AMP

- v. 3 The King made a lavish six month feast for all the princes of the countries.
- v. 10 - 12 The King wanted to show off queen Vashti, but she refused to come.
- v. 13 - 21 Because of her refusal, the King was forced to seek a new Queen.
- v. 22 A Royal Decree was sent out to every people group in their own language.

Chapter 2 Esther the Jew becomes Queen of the Persian Empire.

v. 1 - 4 The search for a new Queen begins.

v. 5 - 7 We meet Mordecai the Jew and his beautiful younger cousin Esther.

v. 8 - 14 Esther the Jew is chosen as a potential wife for Persian King Ahasuerus.

Est 2:12 Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus **after** she had completed twelve months' **preparation**, NKJV

- v. 15 - 20 Esther obtained favor and was chosen as the new Persian Queen.
- v. 21 - 23 While serving at the Gate, Mordecai uncovers an assassination plot.

Chapter 3 Haman the Agagite

v. 1 King Ahasuerus's top advisor was a man named Haman.

v. 2 - 3 Everyone bowed before Haman except Mordecai the Jew.

Est 3:5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. 6 Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead **Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.** 7 In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, **they cast the pur** (that is, the lot) in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. NIV

v. 12 - 14 A Royal Decree was sent to every people group in their own language.

Chapter 4 Esther is tested and she agrees to intervene with the King.

Est 4:12 When Esther's words were reported to **Mordecai**, 13 he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For **if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place**, but you and your

father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position **for such a time as this?"** 15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. **Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day.** I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. **And if I perish, I perish.**" NIV

Chapter 5 Esther invites Haman and Ahasuerus to a feast.

- v. 1 - 2 Esther followed the protocol and obtained favor in the King's sight.
- v. 6 - 8 At dinner Esther invited the King and Haman to yet another banquet.
- v. 9 - 14 Haman decides to hang Mordecai for his continued disrespect.

Chapter 6 King Ahasuerus decides to honor Mordecai.

- v. 1 The King can't sleep and he's reminded that Mordecai previously saved his life by exposing the assassination ploy.
- v. 3 The King finds that Mordecai wasn't rewarded and he decides to do it now.
- v. 4 - 6 The King asks Haman for guidance in how to honor a great man.
- v. 7 - 11 Thinking he's the man, Haman suggests a lavish reward for Mordecai.
- v. 12 - 14 The reality of the reversal of favor begins to hit Haman.

Chapter 7 Esther exposes Haman's plan to King Ahasuerus.

- v. 1 - 4 Esther asks the King for protection from a terrible plan to kill all Jews.
- v. 5 - 6 When asked who planned her destruction, she points to Haman.
- v. 10 The King had Haman hung on the gallows he intended for Mordecai.

Chapter 8 The King gave Queen Esther Haman's Estate.

- v. 1 - 2 Esther brought Mordecai forward and the King honored him again.
- v. 3 - 14 The King authorized Mordecai to thwart Haman's edict against all Jews.
- v. 15 - 17 Many people became Jews because of the favor that rested on them.

Chapter 9 The Jews were delivered and their situation was reversed.

- v. 1 - 19 The Jews defeated their attackers and decided to celebrate.
- v. 20a Mordechi wrote these things. (Perhaps the entire book of Esther.)
- v. 20b. - 28 The victory celebration became known as the Feast of Purim.

Est 9:28b And these **days of Purim** should never cease to be celebrated by the Jews, nor should the memory of them die out among their descendants. NIV

- v. 29 - 32 The Purim Feast Decree went out in every language to All Nations.

Chapter 10 Mordecai, Esther and Ahasuerus lived happily ever after.

- v. 3 Mordecai became second in authority to only the King, like Joseph was to Pharaoh.

Notes on Esther

Five Levels of Interpretation for all Scripture:

1. **Original Recipients:** Persian Citizens: new queen Esther is Jewish. Jews are favored.
2. **All Jewish People:** God will protect His “Jewish people” from destruction.
3. **Individual Jews:** Remain true to your faith and don’t be intimidated.
4. **The Church:** God is working His redemptive plans behind the scenes.
5. **Individual Christians:** God/Good will triumph over Satan/Evil if we are obedient and there will be a “for such a time as this” for each of us.

6. There is also a Prophetic or Mystical Interpretation for Esther.

The Setting: In Esther there are 10 Feasts or Banquets that speak of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. (Rev. 19:9)

The Story: About a Bride who overcame evil and made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)

The Main Characters

- **Ahasuerus** is a type of **Jesus Christ**, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.
- The Persian king Ahasuerus’ name means “*Lion King*.”
- He is a type of King Jesus, *the Lion of the Tribe of Judah*. (Rev 5:5)

- His first wife **Vashti** is a type of **1st Century Israel**, who rejected King Jesus.
- She rejected the King’s affection. He made a place for a new Bride. (Matt 22:15)

- **Mordecai** and the King’s servant **Hegai** are types of the **Holy Spirit**.
- Like Mordecai guided Esther, Holy Spirit guides us and protects us.
- Like Hegai, Holy Spirit helps prepare us to become the Bride of Christ.
- Holy Spirit teaches us how to function with the Lion King in eternity.
- We co-labor with Holy Spirit to learn the ways of the “Lion King” Jesus.

- **Esther** is a type of the **Bride of Christ**.
- Poor orphan girl with nothing to bring to the marriage.
- Loved by the richest, most powerful King on Earth.
- Esther is a Jew and Ahasuerus is a Gentile. (One New Man made of Jews and Gentiles)
- Esther didn’t come from royalty so she had to be prepared to relate properly to the King.
- We did not come into the Kingdom knowing the ways of our eternal God.
- Esther only needed a year of preparation, but you and I will need a lifetime.

- **Haman** is a type of the **devil**.
- He opposes the Bride and works only for his own interest.
- Haman wants to kill Esther and destroy all of her Jewish people. (Est 3:5-6)
- She must stand against Haman just as we must stand against the devil. (Est 4:14)
- Esther and the King destroy evil Haman and live happily ever after. (Rev. 20)