

ESTHER

BASIC INFO

-  **Author:** Unknown
-  **Date written:** 470–435 BC
-  **Settings :** Persia

MAIN CHARACTERS



ESTHER



MORDECAI



KING
XERXES



HAMAN



VASHTI

KEY THEMES

God's Sovereign Hand – Though unseen, the Lord invites human trust and obedience while guiding events for His salvific purpose.

Courage & Obedience – Esther risks her life to save her people.

Divine Justice – God overturns evil schemes and upholds His righteousness and mercy

The Preservation of God's People – God protects the Jewish nation from annihilation.

The Institution of Purim – A festival celebrating deliverance and God's faithfulness

SUMMARY

Esther begins in Persia under King Xerxes. Queen Vashti refuses to attend his lavish banquet, so she is removed and a realm-wide search chooses a new queen. Esther, a young Jewish exile, wins the crown but keeps her identity hidden at the urging of her cousin Mordecai. Mordecai later uncovers an assassination plot and saves the king, yet goes unrewarded. Trouble grows when Haman, the highest official, becomes furious because Mordecai will not bow except to God. Haman persuades Xerxes to seal a decree ordering every Jew killed on a set date. Mordecai urges Esther to act, warning that silence will not spare her. After three days of fasting, she risks death by walking uninvited into the throne room and invites Xerxes and Haman to two private banquets. A sleepless king reads the records, learns of Mordecai's past loyalty, and orders Haman to honor him publicly. At the second feast Esther reveals her heritage and Haman's plot. The enraged king has Haman impaled on the very stake he had set up for Mordecai. A new decree allows the Jews to defend themselves; they triumph throughout the empire and rest. Their rescue is celebrated each year as Purim, a feast of joy and generosity. Though the book never mentions God by name, every turn shows the hidden guidance of God working through Esther's fasting and courageous action to turn certain ruin into joyful deliverance.

KEY VERSES



Esther 4 : 14 – "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place... and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" — Mordecai urges Esther to act.



Esther 4 : 16 – "...so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish." — Esther chooses bold obedience.



Esther 6 : 13 – "If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him." — Haman's downfall is foretold.



Esther 7 : 10 – "So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai." — Justice turns Haman's plot on himself.



Esther 9 : 22 – "The month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy... that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor." — Purim is established to celebrate rescue

JESUS IN THIS BOOK

Esther shows a hidden picture of the coming Savior. A brave queen risks death before a throne to save doomed people, foreshadowing Jesus who offers Himself and intercedes for us. The king extends a golden scepter, hinting at divine mercy through Christ. Haman's gallows meant for Mordecai turn against the villain, echoing the cross where evil is overturned. Victory is sealed on the third day, whispering resurrection hope. The feast of Purim celebrates rescued lives, pointing to everlasting joy in Jesus who secures deliverance for all who unite themselves to Him in faith and faithful life.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Esther teaches that God is ever-present and working even when His hand seems hidden and calls us to respond with prayer, fasting, and thanksgiving. It reminds us to stand for truth and trust His timing. Like Esther, we must be courageous in faith and willing to take risks for righteousness. The story encourages gratitude and celebration for God's deliverance in our lives and urges us to remember His interventions with joyful worship

WISDOM

OLD TESTAMENT


1 | **QUEEN VASHTI'S REMOVAL** **ESTHER 1**

2 | **ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN** **ESTHER 2**

3 | **HAMAN'S PLOT** **ESTHER 3**

4 | **ESTHER'S DECISION** **ESTHER 4-5**

5 | **HAMAN'S DOWNFALL** **ESTHER 6-7**

6 | **JEWISH DELIVERANCE** **ESTHER 8-10**
1 | Queen Vashti's Removal (Esther 1)

Queen Vashti refuses King Xerxes' request to appear before his court and is removed from her position. A royal decree is issued, and a search for a new queen begins across the Persian Empire.

2 | Esther Becomes Queen (Esther 2)

Esther, a young Jewish woman, is chosen as queen, though she keeps her heritage secret. Meanwhile, Mordecai uncovers a plot to assassinate the king and reports it, unknowingly setting the stage for future events.

3 | Haman's Plot (Esther 3)

Haman, a high-ranking official, is promoted and becomes enraged when Mordecai refuses to bow to him. Seeking revenge, he convinces the king to issue a decree ordering the extermination of all Jews.

4 | Esther's Decision (Esther 4-5)

Esther calls for a three-day fast among all the Jews and, together with Mordecai, she offers a repentant and humble prayer to God, clothed in fasting and supplication. Strengthened, she risks her life by entering the king's presence uninvited. She then invites King Ahasuerus and Haman to two banquets, preparing the moment to plead for her people's lives.

5 | Haman's Downfall (Esther 6-7)

When the king is reminded of Mordecai's past loyalty, he publicly honors him. At Esther's second banquet she unmasks Haman's genocidal plot; the enraged king orders Haman to be executed on the very gallows he had prepared for Mordecai.

6 | Jewish Deliverance (Esther 8-10)

The king issues a new decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves. They triumph over their enemies, Mordecai is promoted to a position of high authority, and a festival is established to celebrate God's providence and deliverance.