

Outline of
Esther



Introduction

Writer

Unknown. Could Mordecai have been the writer? (See Esther 9:29.)

A strange story

God's name is not mentioned in this book; no divine title or pronoun refers to Him. The heathen king's name is mentioned 192 times. (It is true also that God's name does not occur in the Song of Solomon, but every masculine pronoun — with a possible exception of 8:6 — refers to Him.)

Esther is the record of Israel in a self-chosen pathway. Opportunity had been given for the Jews to return under Cyrus, but only a very small remnant returned. Ezra and Nehemiah give the story of those who did return; Esther gives the story of those who did not return but who chose instead the prosperity and luxury of Persia. They are out of the will of God, but they are not beyond His care.

Deuteronomy 31:18 explains the reason God's name does not appear. In the Book of Esther His face is hidden. There is no mention of prayer nor dependence upon God in this book. Esther is never quoted in the New Testament, nor is there even a casual reference to it. However, the Jews give it a peculiar emphasis. It is one of the five books called Megilloth (rolls) and is placed beside the Pentateuch in importance.

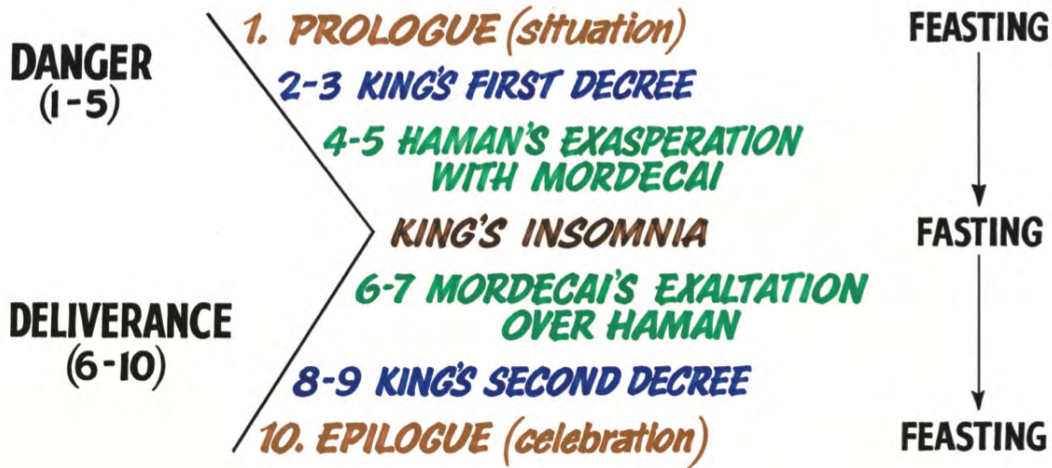
Subject

Esther teaches the providence of God. "Providence" comes from the same stem as "provide," and it means simply that God will provide. Theologically, providence is the direction God gives to everything: animate and inanimate, good and evil. Practically, providence is the hand of God in the glove of history — and that glove will never move until He moves it. God is at the steering wheel of this universe.

Providence means that God is behind the scenes, shifting and directing them. Providence is the way God coaches the runner on second base. It is the way God leads those who will not be led. As recorded in the Book of Esther, the entire Jewish nation would have been slain had it not been for the providence of God. God stands in the shadows, keeping watch over His own.

Source: Dr. John Vernon McGee (1904 – 1988), THRU THE BIBLE RADIO NETWORK

ESTHER: *literary structure*



ACROSTICS IN ESTHER

1.20	5.4	5.13	7.7	7.5
<p>DUE RESPECT OUR LADIES SHALL GIVE TO THEIR HUSBANDS, BOTH TO GREAT AND SMALL</p>	<p>LET OUR ROYAL DINNER THIS DAY BE GRACED BY KING AND HAMAN</p>	<p>YET I AM SAD FOR NO AVAIL IS ALL THIS TO ME</p>	<p>FOR HE SAW THAT THERE WAS EVIL TO FEAR DETERMINED AGAINST HIM BY THE KING</p>	<p>WHERE DWELLETH THE ENEMY THAT DARETH PRESUME IN HIS HEART TO DO THIS THING ?</p>
<p>HVHJ <i>BACKWARD</i> <i>GENTILE SPEAKS</i> <i>ABOUT QUEEN</i></p>	<p>JHVH <i>FORWARD</i> <i>JEW SPEAKS</i> <i>BY QUEEN</i></p>	<p>HVHJ <i>BACKWARD</i> <i>GENTILE SPEAKS</i> <i>BY HAMAN</i></p>	<p>JHVH <i>FORWARD</i> <i>JEW WRITES</i> <i>ABOUT HAMAN</i></p>	<p>EHYH <i>BACKWARD</i> <i>GENTILE SPEAKS</i> <i>- I AM (EXOD. 3.15)</i></p>

I. The wife who refused to obey her husband

Chapter 1

II. The beauty contest to choose a real queen

Chapter 2



III. Haman and anti-Semitism

Chapter 3

IV. For such a time as this

Chapter 4

V. The scepter of grace and the nobility of Esther

Chapter 5

VI. When a king could not sleep at night

Chapter 6

VII. The man who came to dinner but died on the gallows

Chapter 7

VIII. The message of hope that went out from the king

Chapter 8



IX. The institution of the Feast of Purim

Chapters 9, 10

Quiz on Esther

1. What is the name of the Jew that sat at the gate of King Ahasuerus?

2. What is the name of Mordecai's cousin?

3. Name the King who crowned Esther the queen.

4. How long did Esther have to prepare before she could go into King Ahasuerus (Xerxes)?

5. What is the name of the king's senior official that wanted to kill the Jews?

6. What did Esther command Mordecai to do before she tried to see King Ahasuerus (Xerxes)?

7. How did God use Esther to save the Jews?

8. In Esther Chapter 8, what did the king present to Mordecai after Haman's death?

9. After Haman's death, what did the king's edict in Esther Chapter 8 granted the Jews?

10. In Esther Chapter 10, why was Mordecai held in high esteem by the Jews?

GENEVA
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