



# Esther

## **Background**

- Esther is the final historical book.
- Most of the events transpire in a single year (486-485 BC). The entire story unfolds between Ezra 6-7, a generation before Nehemiah returns to the land.
- The story revolves around the actions of four main characters: King Ahasuerus (Xerxes), Haman the Agagite (an Amalekite), Mordecai, and Esther.
- This book records the institution of the Feast of Purim and the people's obligation to observe it perennially.

## **Roadmap**

### **ACT I: BACKGROUND (1-2)** **"Crown the Queen!"**

- A. Vashti Rejected (1)
- B. Esther Selected (2)

### **ACT II: TENSION (3-5)** **"Construct the Gallows!"**

- A. Haman's Plot (3)
- B. Mordecai's Plea (4)
- C. Esther's Plan (5:1-8)
- D. Haman's Pride (5:9-14)

### **ACT III: RESOLUTION (6-10)** **"Celebrate the Victory!"**

- A. The disgrace of Haman (6-7)
- B. The decree of Xerxes (8)
- C. The defeat of Israel's enemies (9:1-19)
- D. The days of Purim (9:20-32)
- E. The dignity of Mordecai (10)

## **Landmark**

The theme of Esther is "the unseen hand of God." Though His name never appears, His hand works all things together for His glory and the good of His people.

## **Must See**

- God providentially delivered His people so the messianic line could be preserved.
- Like Mordecai, Christ was once despised yet eventually elevated to a place of wealth and power where He seeks the wealth of His people and speaks peace to all His seed (10:3) (Eph. 1:7) (Rom. 5:1).
- Like Esther, Christ courageously offered His life to deliver and advocate for His people (Rom 5:8) (1 John 2:1-2).

## **Takeaway**

1. God is always at work, even when He seems passive, hidden, and silent.
2. The providence of God justifies courage, not complacency.