
BOOK OVERVIEW

Esther

Author: possibly Mordecai

Date: 470–460 B.C.

Recipients: the Jews of the dispersion in various parts of the Persian Empire

Key word: the Jews (43 times)

Summary: The account of a Jewish girl who becomes queen of Persia and saves her people from destruction.

Theme: God’s providential care for His people.

Key verses: Esther 4:14

Notes:

The book covers about 11 years, 483–474 B.C. from the 3rd year to the 12th year of the reign of Ahasuerus.

This is the last of the Historical books in the Old Testament.

Unlike any other book in the Bible, the name of God is not mentioned and it makes no mention of prayer.

The book vividly contrasts the humility of Mordecai and the pride of Haman.

The book describes the origin of the annual Jewish feast of Purim. (Chs. 9-10)

Purim is still celebrated by the Jews today at which the book of Esther is read. During the reading, the Jews cheer at the name of Mordecai and hiss when Haman’s name is read.

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