

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: The Book of Esther – Message 1

2016 VISION: Faithful in little things!

Scriptures for Today: Esther 1:1-3 – Introduction and Context of Esther

Title of Today's Message: The Power of Persia – God sees things much differently than men!

INTRODUCTION

Today, we will introduce the book of Esther. And, what a book it is! As we will find out, there is more to Esther than meets the eye – as usual with the _____ of God! During the times of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther, other historical figures will arise – Buddha (India), Confucius (China), Socrates (Greece), and Plato/Aristotle. Their fame would be prevalent during the time of _____ between the OT and NT. Satan was constructing his end times power base: **Intellectualism and the philosophy of men:** “*Human intellect supersedes the Word of God*” and “*Man is smarter than God.*” As we begin the book of Esther, remember that Cyrus the great had conquered the Median Empire, the Lydian Empire, and eventually the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Next, Darius the Great had risen to power over the sons of Cyrus. Xerxes the Great was the son of Darius. It is commonly believed that Xerxes the Great is king “*Ahasuerus*” of Esther. Only Greece was able stop the power of Persia.

FUNDAMENTAL INFORMATION

Title Means: _____ or the star; this name given by the Persians indicates that she was beautiful.

Note: Esther's Hebrew name is found in 2:7 – **Hadassah**.

Chapters: **10** *Verses:* **167** *Words:* _____

Author: _____ – possibly Mordecai; Jews do not know either (Rom 3:2)

Historical Time: **521 to 509 BC** (*takes place during the time of Ezra*)

Theme: Divine providence and deliverance.

Keynote: God is _____ mentioned directly or referred to at all in the entire book. However, He is certainly working in the background as the Jews are protected and honored.

THREE BASIC APPLICATIONS

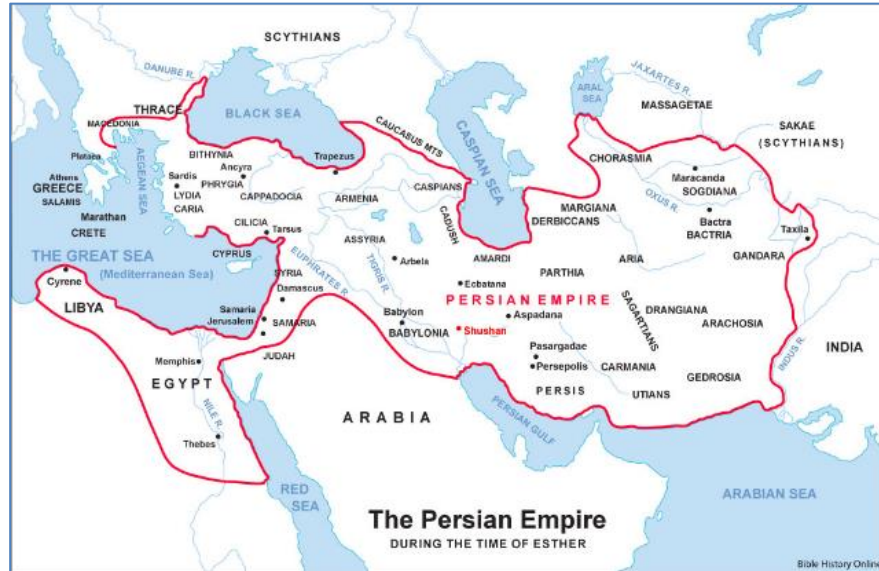
- Historical* A Gentile queen (bride) is removed and is replaced by a _____ queen (bride). This all takes place right before a time of great tribulation and ultimate honor for the Jew.
- Devotional* Never fear God is here! Although it may seem that there is no hope, and you are all _____ without God being present, He is at work behind the scenes preparing for your deliverance.
- Doctrinal* The rapture of the church (presented in an ominous light); the anti-christ; the **TRIBULATION** period; and the restoration of the nation of Israel.

OUTLINE STRUCTURE

Chapters 1-3 The conspiracy **FORMED**.
Chapters 4-5 The conspiracy **FOUGHT**.
Chapters 6-10 The conspiracy **FAILED**.

Note: **God prevails!!** The Jews are God's **indestructible** people: *NOT* Pharaoh, *NOT* Goliath, *NOT* Abimelech, *NOT* Nebuchadnezzar, *NOT* Darius, *NOT* _____, *NOT* Herod, *NOT* Caesar, *NOT* Nero, *NOT* the popes, *NOT* Hitler – they **all** failed!

MAPS



PREACHING NOTES

1. Now it came to pass...this is _____ **Ahasuerus** which reigned *from India even unto Ethiopia*.

✓ This is *that Ahasuerus* which reigned from India even unto Ethiopia...

Esther 1:1 *“Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus...over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces”*

NOTE Ahasuerus is a kingly title like Pharaoh or Caesar. The Jews are under the rule of a Gentile king. Prophetically, Persia is a type of England. There have only been 2 times in history the Jews returned to their Land by the decree of a king – Cyrus of Persia & George V of England.

✓ That *in those days*, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne...in Shushan the palace...

✓ In the third year of his reign, he made a feast until all his princes and his servants...

Judges 21:25 *“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”*

Nehemiah 1:1 *“The words of Nehemiah...as I was in Shushan the palace,”*

Esther 1:3 *“...the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him”*

NOTE In secular history, Xerxes is famous for his invasion of Greece and his battles with Athens and Sparta (300). However, God will choose to ignore all of that and focus on a rebellious wife and an unknown Jewish girl who becomes queen. God looks at things much differently!