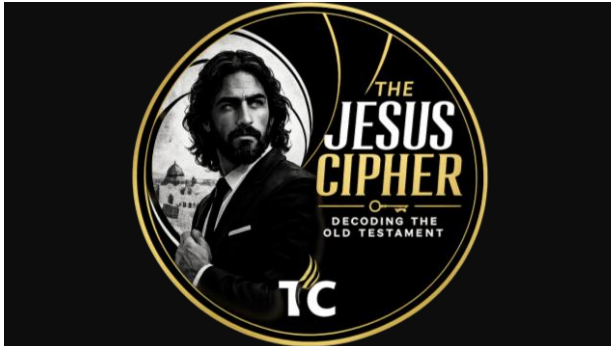
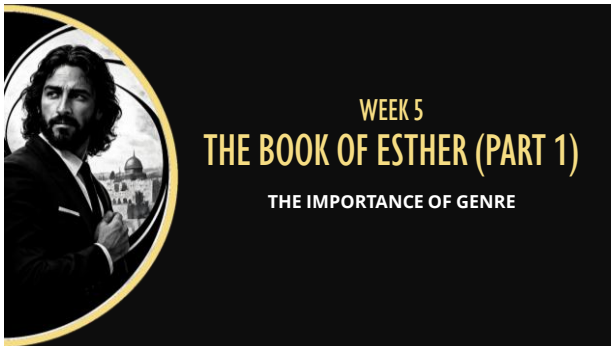
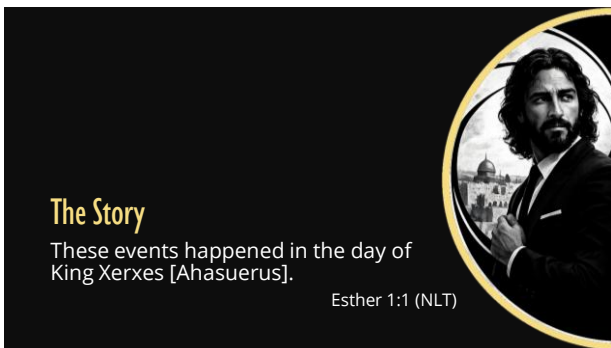




1



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4

Cultural Context



- Irreversible Laws of the Emperor
 - Practical/Legal purpose
 - Symbolic/Religious purpose
- Zoroastrianism
 - Exalts an uncreated, benevolent, supreme, and all-wise deity (along with other gods)
 - Demands good thoughts, good words, and good deeds to maintain order

5

Esther 1:1-2:4



- Why might this introduction/context be important to the story as a whole?
- What is motivating Xerxes and Vashti?
- How does the historicity of the book affect our interpretation?

6

Key Take Aways

"You examine the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is those *very Scriptures* that testify about me."

John 5:39 (NASB)



7

The GENRE Is Important! 

- Historical Account vs. Scriptural Truth
- Does the historicity of Esther affect the value/impact of the book as SCRIPTURE? Why or why not?

8

The Text Is Important! 

- What is IN the text and what we READ INTO the text
- Our perspective has value but is not foundational
- Recognize assumptions versus facts

9



Hermeneutical Applications

If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.

John 14:7

10

Interpretive Methods and Tools



- How do we keep track of ASSUMPTIONS versus TEXTUAL FACT when reading scripture?
- How can we hold ASSUMPTIONS loosely while grounding them in the text?
- How can we recognize/identify the genre of a passage?
- How does the GENRE of a passage affect our interpretation, comprehension, and spiritual application?

11

GENRE: Historical Storytelling

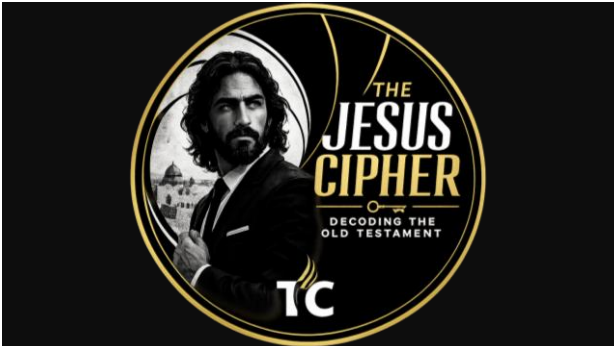


- **Preservation:** Keeping cultural memory alive beyond spoken word.
- **Education:** Teaching ethics, governance, and survival skills.
- **Cultural cohesion:** Strengthening community identity through shared narratives.
- **Spiritual connection:** Linking the present to divine or ancestral realms

12



13



14
