

FINDING JESUS IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER

LESSON 1: Esther 1: 1-4 Esther 1:1-4**I. EXILES DO NOT ADORE WORLDLY _____ : Esther 1:1-4****➤ The reign of Ahasuerus : _____ & _____ (1:1-2)**

- Greek name : _____
- Reigned from _____ to _____ BC
- Son and successor of _____ | Hystaspes.
- Under Darius the restoration of _____ Temple took place (Hagai 2:1-9, Zechariah 7:1; 8:9)
- Xerxes is portrayed as: discerning and principled at times but more often _____, tyrannical and _____.
- *In Character and Ideology in the Book of Esther*, Michael Fox writes: “He is consumed with being honored and displaying his authority”
- “His soul is adequately exposed by simple description of his mental states, which are mostly a collection of impulses”.
- “He often wields his incredible power”...carried out by whims of one who is “_____, childish, apathetic, and _____”.

➤ The reign of Ahasuerus : _____ (1:1)

- The Boundaries of Ahasuerus’s empire: He ruled _____provinces that stretched from _____ to _____ (Southern Pakistan to northern Sudan on our current maps) -- one of the greatest empire ever known then.
- David Strain notes: “He is the supreme ruler of the world _____of the day”.
- Capital city: _____-the location of the royal throne.

➤ The reign of Ahasuerus : _____ (1:3-4)

- On the 3rd year of his reign, he gave a feast for Persia’s political and military elites. (The first feast in Esther)
- _____ seems to be an important event in the _____, _____ and _____of the Book of Esther.
- There are almost more references to feasts in _____ than in the rest of the _____ combined.
- The feast is not to appreciate his leaders, but to display “the glorious _____ of his kingdom and the magnificent _____ of his splendor” (1:4)
- The Celebration lasted _____!--Now that is a party!
- Imagine 6 months of non-stop food & drink preparation, caring for guests, and completing their usual responsibilities carried out by his servants!

PARTY INVITATION:

Your Presence is commanded at the King's Feast.

To give you an opportunity to bask in his glory and greatness.

And to show you what true extravagance and power look like. What a privilege this will be for you!

Please drop by the palace between noon and midnight any day over the next six months or stay for that entire time.

Also please do not send your regrets; your absence will be to your everlasting regret.

See you soon!

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2 Questions to consider after seeing Ahasuerus's greatness:

- Have you ever been around someone who repeatedly informed you of the aspect of his greatness?
- Have you ever thrown a party to celebrate yourself?

- ❖ I still often crave to be _____ & _____.
- ❖ Worst still, I am angered by others who do not _____ me.
- ❖ I want people to "_____ " me and my achievements.
- ❖ If I am not regularly considering the Lord's _____, then I am prone to consider my _____.
- ❖ Knowing God's preeminence in His Word, recalibrate my heart and mind and helps me perceive once again my _____ in His world.

Let's get a good PERSPECTIVE:

- Ahasuerus threw a party for _____ to celebrate his glory...
- But from the moment God spoke into existence the heavens and the earth, all of creation has never ceased declaring _____!
- Ahasuerus's party started and ended with a specific duration, but of the _____ there will be _____!
- The display of evil power does not mean a diminishing of _____! God has no rival and no equal. He has never been, is not and will never be threatened or thwarted.

CHRIST IN ESTHER: Application of Lesson 1: Esther 1:1-4

1. We should not adopt a worldly agenda.

- No life in worldly _____,
- No life in worldly _____ or
- No life in worldly _____.

- ❖ Eternal life is only found in knowing God and the one sent -- _____

📖 *And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. (John 17:3)*

2. Ahasuerus was concerned about promoting himself-- his own _____ and _____. We must be mindful, greatness is not found in the way how worldly leaders _____ greatness.

- Jesus describes greatness in Mark 10:42-45:

📖 *42 So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. 43 But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a _____ among you must be your _____, 44 and whoever wants to be _____ among you must be the _____ of everyone else. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be _____ but to _____ others and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

- ❖ Jesus teaches us true leadership and greatness through _____ & _____.

3. Greatness in God's Kingdom is not found in self-promotion but in _____. (Read Philippians 3:5-11)

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4. May it be clear that the only agenda we exiles follow was given to us by the one who has all authority in heaven and on earth--_____!

5. Ahasuerus is no match to Jesus! While all Persia was subject to Ahasuerus, all of _____ is subject to Christ. _____!

6. While Ahasuerus sat on a throne in _____, Christ has a throne at the _____ of the Father in the heavenly places that is...

📖 *“ far above even ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every titles given not only ninths age but also in the one to come” (Eph. 1:21)*

7. Ahasuerus was known for his feasts. But Derek Prime in *“Unspoken Lessons about the Unseen God”* said:

📖 *There is no banquet on earth to compare with this. It is a love feast for pardoned sinners, whatever their status in human society...This banquet is a foretaste of a far greater banquet to come--the _____ . Then we shall sit down and feast with him. (Read Revelation 19:9)*

Christ in the Feast of Bible:

📖 *You satisfy me more than the richest _____. I will praise you with songs of joy. (Psalm 63:5).*

📖 *In Jerusalem, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will spread a wonderful _____ for all the people of the world. It will be a delicious banquet with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat (Isaiah 25:6).*

📖 *And Joseph filled their plates with food from his own table, giving Benjamin five times as much as he gave the others. So they _____ and drank freely with him (Genesis 43:34)*

THE 7 FEAST OF THE BIBLE:

1. Passover

2. _____ Bread

3. _____ Fruit

4. Feast of Weeks or _____

5. Feast of _____

6. Day of _____

7. Feast of _____ or Booths

REFLECTION

Q : In What way Jesus is better king than Ahasuerus?

Q: Give an example of how God works in the mundane. Why do we tend to acknowledge him more in the miracle than the mundane?

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