

Act 1: The Stage is Set (Esther 1-2): Ahasuerus, Vashti, Mordecai & Esther

Who, What, Where, When, Why

Who: Ahasuerus, Vashti, Mordecai & Esther

What: Esther 1-2

Where: Modern-day _____

When: 482 – 478 B.C. **Why:** _____

Year	Event
586	The Jews deported by the Babylonians
485	Xerxes becomes king of Persia
478	Esther becomes queen of Persia

Special Note

There is no mention of _____ in Esther.

Ahasuerus' First Feast (1:1-1:4)

Donald Curtis: Moving from the Greek to the Persian to the Hebrew to the English:
Xerxes – Xshayarshan – Achashverosh – Ahasuerus.

David Guzik: At this time, Ahasuerus is planning for a doomed invasion of _____. The Persian Empire was the largest the world had ever seen. It covered what we call today Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Jordan, Lebanon, and Israel; and parts of modern day Egypt, Sudan, Libya, and Arabia.

Verse 2: Shushan = the _____ residence of the Persian kings

Ahasuerus' Second Feast (1:5-1:8)

Verse 5: a feast lasting seven days = **Donald Curtis: Nearly every event in Esther happens** _____

Vashti's Feast (1:9)

Verse 9: Queen Vashti = Persian name meaning _____

John Gill: Persians . . . did not allow their wives to be with them at feasts, only their concubines and harlots, with whom they could behave with more indecency.

Vashti's Refusal (1:10-1:12)

Donald Curtis: Herodotus [a historian from this era] . . . reported that Ahasuerus had a very bad temper. Herodotus records that Ahasuerus had the River Hellespont be _____ and _____.

Ahasuerus' Question (1:13-1:15)

Verse 14: **Carshena** [car-shin-AW, illustrious], **Shethar** [SHAY-thar, a star], **Admatha** [ad-maw-THAW, a testimony to them], **Tarshish** [tar-SHEESH, yellow jasper], **Meres** [MAY-res, lofty], **Marsena** [mar-sin-AW, worthy], and **Memucan** [mem-oo-KAWN, dignified]

Memucan's Answer (1:16-1:20)

See **Daniel 6:8** for more on the irrevocability of the _____ of the Medes and Persians

Ahasuerus' Law Enacted (1:21-1:22)

Miss Persia Contest (2:1-2:4)

Verse 1: **After these things** = **David Guzik: During this time, Ahasuerus** [has an] **unsuccessful invasion of Greece, and he comes home a defeated man wanting to cheer his heart through sensual diversions**

Mordecai & Esther Introduced (2:5-2:7)

Verse 5: **Mordecai** = _____ man

Verse 7: **Hadassah** = Jewish name meaning _____; **Esther** = Persian name meaning _____

Esther Favored (2:8-2:9)

Esther's Concealment & Mordecai's Concern (2:10-2:11)

Perfumes & Preparations (2:12-2:14)

Verse 12: **six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women** = **Adam Clarke: Those who feed on coarse strong food, which is not easily digested, have generally a copious perspiration, which is strongly odorous; and in many . . . this _____ is far from being pleasant.**

Esther Named Queen (2:15-2:20)

Verse 18: **Treasury of Scripture Knowledge: Persian monarchs were accustomed to give their wives distinct _____ and provinces for the purpose of supplying them with different articles of dress.**

Mordecai Foils the Assassination Attempt (2:21-2:23)

Verse 22: **became known** = _____, _____, _____

Conclusion

1. Ahasuerus, Vashti, Mordecai and Esther really _____.
2. Ahasuerus, Vashti, Mordecai and Esther were not _____.
3. Ahasuerus, Vashti, Mordecai and Esther were used by God to complete His plan of _____.

Act 2: The Die is Cast (Esther 3-4): Haman's Rise, Mordecai's Despise & Esther's Advice

Haman's Rise and Mordecai's Despise (3:1-3:6)

Verse 1: **his seat**: can also be translated _____

Verse 1: **above all the princes who were with him**: Haman was, in effect, the king's prime _____

Verse 3: **Donald Curtis: Why does Mordecai not bow down to Haman?**

Calendars and Casting (3:7)

Verse 7: **In the first month**: **Thomas Constable: The official casting of lots happened during the _____ month of each year to determine the most opportune days for important events.**

Verse 7: **they cast Pur**: poor; these were _____ used for systematically making decisions

A Sinister Minister (3:8-3:9)

Verse 9: **ten thousand talents**: round weights

Verse 9: **of silver**:

1 talent = _____ shekels

1 shekel = ____ grams

1 gram = 1/28 ounce

1 ounce = \$_____

Ten thousand talents of silver would be worth approximately \$_____,000,000.00 as of (07/20/08)

The King's Ring (3:10-3:11)

Law of the Land (3:12-3:15)

Verse 12: **the king's satraps**: **Wikipedia: the head of the administration of his _____**

Verse 12: Why would Haman have acted so early?

Verse 15: Why was the city perplexed?

Tears and Fears (4:1-4:3)

Verse 3: Where is the mention of _____?

Facing and Pacing (4:4-4:9)

Tradition's Prohibition (4:10-4:12)

Verse 11: Jamieson-Faussett-Brown: The law alluded to was . . . adopted by the Persians, that all business should be transacted and petitions transmitted to the king through his _____.

Man's Plans (4:13-4:14)

Verse 13: escape [slip away, be delivered]

Verse 14: Is Mordecai acknowledging God? Is Mordecai being a _____ Jew?

Contrasting Fasting (4:15-4:16)

Verse 16: Compare **Exodus 12:1-6**

Donald Curtis: Haman's decree went out on the eve of the slaughter of the Passover _____. But Mordecai the Jew made no reference to this holiday of national deliverance at a time when the Jews needed deliverance! . . . Esther then called upon all the Jews in Susa to fast for three days. That period covered the time during which the Passover lamb was to have been slaughtered and _____.

Obedient and Expedient (4:17)

Conclusion

1. Ahasuerus, Vashti, Mordecai and Esther really _____.
2. Ahasuerus, Vashti, Mordecai and Esther were not _____.
3. Ahasuerus, Vashti, Mordecai and Esther were used by God to complete His plan of _____.

Act 3: The Game is Afoot (Esther 5-6): Esther's Plan, Haman's Plot and Mordecai's Prestige

The Courageous Queen (5:1-5:2)

Verse 2: **golden scepter**: JFB: held in the right hand, with one end resting on the _____

The Magnanimous Monarch (Part 1) (5:3)

Verse 3: Persian kings gave their wives cities for their personal use

The Audible Appeal (Part 1) (5:4)

Verse 4: Why would Esther invite Haman?

The Quick Command (5:5)

Verse 5: Imagine a private banquet with the first _____

The Magnanimous Monarch (Part 2) (5:6)

The Audible Appeal (Part 2) (5:7-5:8)

Verse 8: The way to a man's heart . . .

The Heated Haman (5:9-11)

Verse 9: **filled with indignation against Mordecai** [This is a _____ in Haman's life.]

The Melancholy Minister (5:12-13)

Verse 12: **Adam Clarke**: _____ will ever render its possessor unhappy. . . . The soul was made for God, and nothing but God can fill it and make it happy.

The Sinister Support (5:14a)

The Completed Construction (5:14b)

Verse 14: Notice Haman never wastes _____

The King's Chronicles (6:1-6:3a)

Verse 1: Why would he not be able to sleep after a banquet?

The Insomniac's Insight (6:3b)

Verse 3: **Esther 2:23**

The Hidden Hand (6:4-6:5)

Verse 4: **JFB**: It is the custom for kings in Eastern countries to transact business before the sun is ____.

The Elliptical Inquiry (6:6a)

The Proudful Presumption (6:6b-6:9)

Verse 6: Adam Clarke: The **royal apparel** was never worn but by the king: even when the king had lain them aside, it was death to put them on.

Verse 9: David Guzik: Haman, in his childish desire to be praised and honored by all, asks for things that really matter very little, except to puff one up with pride. Haman is a tragic man who can only believe he has done well when he hears _____. It is a good and sometimes appropriate thing to have applause here on earth, but it is tragic to live your life seeking for it.

Verse 9: Bob Deffinbaugh: Haman's view of honor was to experience the honor of the king himself. He would love to wear the king's clothing and ride the king's horse. He would love to wear the king's crown. He would love to parade about having the entire city bow down to him as they would the king. Is it not evident that Haman really would like to be the _____?

The Tables Turned (6:10)

The Public Picture (6:11)

Verse 11: Is Mordecai a _____?

The Depressing Decree (6:12-6:13)

The Sequestering Servants (6:14)

Conclusion

David Guzik: Esther wasn't *lucky* to be queen; Mordecai wasn't *lucky* to have overheard the assassination plot; it wasn't *luck* or *chance* that made Haman enter the royal courts at this time with this heart. It was God; we don't say *praise the luck!* This becomes difficult, of course, when bad things happen to us. It is easy to see God's management of all things when we see good things happen. But what about the bad? Even then, we must trust God's total plan, realizing that **all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28)**. . . . Any one event, taken in isolation may seem to make no sense, but when we see all things working _____, we see the ultimate wisdom of God's plan.

Act 4: The Fairer Sex (Esther 7-8): Haman's Ordeal and Esther's Appeal

Questions, Questions, Questions (7:1-7:2)

Verse 2: This is the _____ time Xerxes asks this question

The Deception Displayed (7:3-7:6)

Verse 4: **destroyed . . . killed . . . annihilated:** Esther is repeating the words of _____ in **Esther 3:13**

Verse 5: **"Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?"**

Adam Clarke: The original words. . . **"Who? He? This one? And where? This one? He? Who hath filled his heart to do thus?"**

The Slippery Slope of Success (7:7-7:9a)

Verse 8: How ironic that Haman is now at the feet of a _____ when all he wanted was a _____ at his own feet

Verse 8: **John Gill:** It was the custom of the kings of Persia, that their servants covered the face of him the king was angry with, that he might not see his _____ any more

Verse 9: **Harbonah:** we met him in **Esther 1:10** and he _____ have been the messenger that invited Haman

The Heated Hanging (7:9b-7:10)

Verse 10: **David Guzik:** Satan thought that he won by getting the crowd to crucify Jesus, but the cross turned out to be the instrument of his _____. In the case of Mordecai and Haman, it was the guilty dying in the place of the _____; in the case of us and Jesus, it is a matter of the innocent dying in the place of _____.

The Property Passed (8:1-8:2)

Verse 1: Many commentators feel this was Mordecai's promotion to prime minister

Verse 2: **David Guzik:** Haman . . . ends with nothing—nothing even to pass on to his family. He had climbed the ladder of success, but it was leaning against the wrong _____!

The Nation Named (8:3-8:6)

The Statute Supplemented (8:7-8:8)

Verse 8: Bob Deffinbaugh: The king spared Esther's life first because he loved her. And because He loved Esther, He spared those for whom she interceded—her people. God saves us for Christ's sake, because of His love for His Son, Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ approaches the Father and intercedes for us. It is because of our Savior that we receive the blessings of _____.

The Royal Riders (8:9-8:10)

Verse 9: _____ months and _____ days after the prior letters went out in **Esther 3:12**

The Decree Defined (8:11-8:14)

Verse 11: the same words as Haman used in the original decree

Verse 11: Bob Deffinbaugh: The new law of Mordecai does not merely grant the Jews permission to defend themselves; it grants them permission to _____ themselves. . . . It seems the Jews were granted to kill virtually anyone they perceived to be a threat.

The Jubilant Jews (8:15-8:17)

Verse 15: **Shushan rejoiced:** literally, neighed as a _____

Verse 16: **The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor:** David Guzik: Our salvation is not yet complete—yet we can rejoice, because of our confidence in our _____.

Conclusion (by Bob Deffinbaugh)

1. God has a _____
2. Watching God at _____ a pleasure and a wonder
3. God does what _____ cannot do
4. What a difference a _____ makes

Act 5: The Rest of the Story (Esther 9-10)

Purim and Peace

The Day Dawns (9:1-9:5)

Verse 1: **overpower** = have _____ over

Verse 4: **For Mordecai was great in the king's palace, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces:** see **Joshua 6:27** and **1 Chronicles 14:17** for more on this concept

The Sons Slaughtered (9:6-9:10)

Verses 7-9: **Parshandatha** [given by prayer], **Dalphon** [dripping], **Aspatha** [the enticed gathered], **Poratha** [fruitfulness or frustration], **Adalia** [I shall be drawn up as Jah], **Aridatha** [the _____ of the decree], **Parmashta** [superior], **Arisai** [_____ of my banners], **Aridai** [the _____ is enough], **and Vajezatha** [strong as the wind]

The King's Question (9:11-9:12)

The Appeal Augmented (9:13)

Why would Esther not ask for an extra _____ across all of the empire?

How does an extra day change things for the enemies of the Jews?

The Second Slaughter (9:15)

The Remainder Remembered (9:16-9:17)

Verse 17: **day of feasting** [feasting and _____] **and gladness** [joy, pleasure]

The Celebration Commences (9:18-9:19)

The Celebration Circumscribed (9:20-9:25)

Verse 21: **to establish** [fulfill, confirm, ratify, impose] **among them**

Verse 22: **from mourning to a holiday** [literally, an _____ day—a Jewish euphemism for holiday]

Verse 23: This was a _____ holiday, not a religious holiday

Bob Deffinbaugh: (1) Purim was not established by _____, but by men. (2) Purim is celebrated in a very different manner than the feasts which God has ordained.

The Celebration Christened (9:26-9:28)

Verse 26: **Purim, after the name Pur** [the same word as is used for Purim]

The Celebration Confirmed (9:29-9:32)

Verse 30: **with words of peace and truth** [stability, reliability]

The Postscript Printed (10:1-10:3)

Verse 1: **And King Ahasuerus imposed tribute**: Why is this the _____ mention of Xerxes?

Verse 2: **Bob Deffinbaugh: Mordecai, we are told, was a great man. He was great because he was second only to the king himself in power. He was great because of his accomplishments, authority, strength, and greatness. He was great among the Jews because his fellow-Jews highly esteemed him. . . Being great in the sight of men is not synonymous with being great in the eyes of _____.**

David Guzik's observations on the book

1. God loves a great story!
2. God will frustrate the wicked and proud
3. Though the hand of God is often hidden in human events, it is none the less active and real
4. God's hand in history never rules out _____ actions.

Bob Deffinbaugh

We must interpret the Book of Esther in light of the _____ Bible.

We are all too similar to Esther and Mordecai. . . . We find that this present temporal kingdom has a great attraction to us. It sometimes seems real, while the kingdom of our Lord seems distant and far-fetched. . . . Do we think that only the Jews of ancient days failed to recognize the hand of God and took credit for what God has done? We do exactly the same thing today.

Let us not leave the Book of Esther looking down our spiritual noses at Esther, Mordecai, and the Persian Jews. Let us leave the Book of Esther asking ourselves how we are like them and asking what we should do to be the people God has called us to be. Let us seek first the kingdom of God, and let all other things take a secondary place in our lives. Let us not exalt men and forget God. . . . Let us look for the _____ of God, even in the events of a secular world and through heathen officials and politicians. To God be the glory, great things He has done. Great things He _____ does and is yet to do.

Next Series: Getting to Know God (Anthromorphisms)

08/24: Introduction & Overview

09/14: Strength: Analyzing the Arms

08/31: Sentiment: Exploring the Emotions

09/21: Smell: Noticing the Nose

09/07: Sight: Examining the Eyes

09/28: Smile: Seeking the Smile