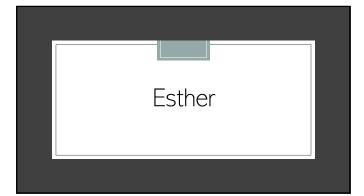


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2

Introduction to Esther

Title

- Hebrew = Ester (אַסְתּר, Esther, "Star" (if Persian), goddess of love, fertility, and war, "Ishtar" (if Akkadian), or "She that is hidden" (if Hebrew/Aramaic))
 - ❖ Esther's Hebrew name from birth was Hadassah (הַדְּקָה), which means "myrtle", a dark evergreen tree with white or pink flowers and black berries; often pictured righteousness, peace, or restoration; Isa 41:19; 55:13; Neh 8:15 [festival of Booths])
- ✓ Greek = $Esth\bar{e}r$ (E $\Sigma\Theta$ HP; "Esther")

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Introdi	iction	†O	Esther
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WHO—Authorship

- ✓ Unknown (Mordecai, Ezra, Nehemiah are candidates)
- ✓ Proposal: Intentionally Anonymous
- ✓ Has divine, omniscient insight (e.g., Haman speaks in his heart; 6:6)

WHO—Audience

✓ The Jews who continue to reside in exile

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Introduction to Esther

WHEN

- ✓ Events occur ~483 BC (1:3) to ~473 BC (10:1–3)
- ✓ Perhaps written ~470 BC.
- ✓ During the reign of Ahasuerus (Xerxes)
- ✓ Between Ezra 6 and Ezra 7—After the Temple was rebuilt under Haggai and Zechariah, but before the coming of Ezra and Nehemiah to the land of Israel

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Introduction to Esther

WHERE

- ✓ Perhaps Susa, the capital of the Medo-Persian empire (1:2)
- ✓ Jews reside in exile; a few have returned
- ✓ People like Ezra and Nehemiah are in exile (perhaps young men) during the days of Esther and Mordecai
- ✓ Exile is a time/place of intentional silence from God (Ezekiel and Daniel are rare exceptions)

	1
Introduction to Esther WHY Though His presence may not always be felt and the voice of His prophets has waned as Israel resides in exile, God providentially works behind the scenes to rescue His people from genocide to keep His promise that He will one day gather all Israel back to the land and restore them under a New Covenant (cf. Deut 30:4–6).	
7	
Introduction to Esther HOW—Terminology ✓ Jew(s) (2:5; 3:4, 6, 10, 13; 4:3, 7, 13, 14, 16; 5:13; 6:10, 13; 8:1, 3, 5, 7 (2x), 8, 9 (2x), 11, 13, 16, 17 (2x); 9:1 (2x), 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24 (2x), 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; 10:3 (2x))—total 52x ✓ Province (1:1, 16, 22 (3x); 2:3, 18; 3:8, 12 (4x), 13, 14 (2x); 4:3 (2x), 11; 8:5, 9 (4x), 11, 12, 13 (2x), 17 (2x); 9:2, 3, 4, 12, 16, 20, 28 (2x), 30) ✓ Book (Scroll; 1:22; 2:23; 3:13; 6:1; 8:5, 10; 9:20, 25, 30, 32; 10:2) ✓ Lot (Pur-Akkadian; 3:7; 9:24, 26 (2x), 28, 29, 31, 32)	
Introduction to Esther HOW—Themes Very No mention of God's name No mention of Palestine, Jerusalem, Temple, Law, Prayer Reversal of Human Plans (chapters 4, 6, 7, 8, 9)—central to the theme Major Characters—Ahasuerus, Haman, Mordecai, Esther Comedy of Ironies	

Intro	oduction to Esther
HOW-	*Adapted from an ordine PDF (https://www.bowdebble/fattagethe/org/Bes/Fath:1:10; Chaimy pdf) citing DD Dorsey, The Literary Structure* *Adapted from an ordine PDF (https://www.bowdebble/fattagethe/org/Bes/Fath:1:10; Chaimy pdf) citing DD Dorsey, The Literary Structure of the Old Trutament: A Communitary on Ganti-Malaid (Creat Republic Baker, 1997)
✓	The King's Feast and Removal of Vashti (1:1-22)
	✓ Esther Granted a Royal Position (2:1–18)
	✓ The Plot against the King Is Thwarted (2:19–23)
	✓ Haman's Plot (3:1 – 4:3)
	✓ Mordecai's and Esther's Risky Plan (4:4–17)
	✓ First Banquet and Haman Builds Gallows (5:1–14)
	✓ The King's Sleepless Night (6:1–14)
	✓ Second Banquet and Haman Hangs on Gallows (7:1–10)
	 ✓ Mordecai's and Esther's Reward (8:1–2)
	✓ Esther's Solution (8:3–17)
	✓ The Plot against the Jews Is Thwarted (9:1–10)
	✓ Esther Granted a Royal Request (9:11–16)
✓	The King's Feast and Honor of Mordecai (9:17 - 10:3)

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Introduction to Esther

HOW—Interpretative Issues

- ✓ Literary Genre of Esther
 ✓ Nature of Mordecai—spiritual or unspiritual Jew?
 ✓ Nature of Esther—spiritual or unspiritual Jew?

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