

Old Testament PowerPoint presentation

Esther

Suggested Bible Reading: Esther 5: 1 – 14

It is important to be thoroughly conversant with this book. The following synopsis may be helpful:-

1. Esther is chosen (2: 16)
2. Mordecai discovers the plot to assassinate the King. (2: 21)
3. Haman is very enraged by Mordecai's lack of deference to him (3: 5). Revenge planned on all the Jews (3: 8).
4. The decree goes out post haste (3: 15)
5. Mordecai takes to wearing sackcloth (4: 4) Esther sends clothes but these are refused. The reason is then found and Esther resolves to do something.
6. Esther enters the King's presence (the sceptre is held out). She invites him to a banquet, with Haman. Haman boasts to his relatives (5: 11) and erects the gallows for Mordecai.
7. The King, unable to sleep, reads the records of Mordecai's previous service in uncovering treachery. (6: 1). He resolves to honour Mordecai.
8. Haman comes to the Palace to persuade the King to hang Mordecai, but to his surprise finds that the suggested honour be paid to the man the King delights to honour are not for himself but for Mordecai.
9. The second banquet of chapter 7 reveals the plight of Esther's people (the Jews) and the infamy of Haman. Haman is hanged on the gallows erected for Mordecai.
10. The decree to destroy the Jews could not be cancelled, but is amended so that the Jews could defend themselves (8: 15). Everyone became afraid of the Jews and a great victory was experienced. Haman's sons are slain.
11. Great honour is given to Mordecai (10: 3). The whole story is commemorated in the Jewish feast of Purim (9: 28).

Slide1



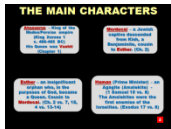
- (Black background) ‡ credits will move up the page. ‡ to open →

Slide 2



– 2 Chronicles saw the Jews (Judah) left in Captivity – Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah dealt with their return. Esther comes in between Zerubbabel and Ezra. ‡ The story of the Medes & Persian Empire comes during the Captivity. ‡ King Ahasuerus (Xerxes 1st) – c.486-464 BC reigns. ‡ [King Ahasueras was the father of King Darius – see Daniel 11 v.1] ‡ **ER** In the UK, **ER** stands for **Elizabeth Regina**. Of course for this book, **ER** stands for Esther Regina ‡ - this is the story of a Queen. ‡ to open →

Slide 3



– Who are the main characters in the book of Esther? ≠ 1. King Ahasuerus and his Queen Vashti. ≠ 2. Mordecai – a Jewish captive, a cousin of Esther. ≠ 3. Queen Esther – an orphan child. ≠ Haman – the Prime Minister.

Slide 4



The story –

- ≠ 1. **Queen Vashti** refuses to come to the **King Ahasuerus's** banquet. She is deposed, and a search is made for a new Queen. A decree is sent out by the King ordering wives to honour their husbands (Ch. 1).
 - ≠ 2. **Esther** is chosen as Queen by **King Ahasuerus** (Ch. 2: 16-17).
 - ≠ 3. **Mordecai** discovers an assassination plot to harm the King (Ch. 2: 21-22).
 - ≠ 4. The King promotes **Haman** to Prime Minister but **Mordecai** does not give homage to him; he arranges revenge on all the Jews. A decree is issued to destroy the Jews (Ch. 3: 5, 8-9, 15).
 - ≠ 5. **Mordecai** mourns the decree. **Esther** hears of it and resolves to do something (Ch. 4).
 - ≠ 6. **Esther** dares to go into the King's presence. The King holds out the sceptre for her to touch showing her acceptance into court; she invites him to a feast. **Haman** is also invited and he boasts of his popularity. A gallows is erected for **Mordecai** (Ch. 5).
 - ≠ 7. The King, unable to sleep, reads the Royal records discovers **Mordecai** had foiled an assassination attempt on the King's life, and so decides to honour **Mordecai** (Ch. 6: 1-3).
 - ≠ 8. The King requires **Haman** to give honour to **Mordecai** (Ch. 6: 4-11).
 - ≠ 9. A second banquet given by **Esther** reveals the plight of the Jews and the infamy of **Haman**, who is now executed (Ch. 7).
 - ≠ 10. The King's decree cannot be cancelled only amended – the Jews are allowed to defend themselves (Ch. 8-9).
 - ≠ 11. **Mordecai** is given honour. The story is commemorated in the Feast of Purim (Ch. 9-10).
- ≠ to open →

Slide 5



– What can we learn about from ‡ Queen Esther? She was ‡ **LOYAL** to her people although she was a Queen (7: 3-4); she was ‡ **HUMBLE** in submitting to the King and to Mordecai (4: 16); she was ‡ **COURAGEOUS** in entering the King's presence (4: 11); she was ‡ **FAITHFUL** - acting in dependence on God and on the prayers of God's people (4: 16); her ‡ **PRAYER** was seen in intercession for the destruction of the enemy and for the deliverance of her people (8: 3-7); she shared ‡ **JOY** with her people for a miraculous deliverance (8: 16; 9: 19) ‡ to open →

Slide 6



- ‡ to remove all small crowns, leaving the big crown. Refer back to the sceptre. ‡ The Sceptre was a symbol of Kingly power. Queen Esther had to **TOUCH** the sceptre ‡ to be accepted by the King. Mentioned in ‡ 4: 11, 5: 2, 8: 4. The Cross is the offer of God's favour (grace). We must stretch out the hand of faith and **TOUCH** it. ‡ This ensures our acceptance with the Lord Jesus Christ, and our deliverance from the power of the enemy, who is finally and actually defeated. ‡ Hebrews 10: 19-22.

‡ → End of slide show (black screen)

Hebrews 10 verses 19-22 – therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.