

# ESTHER

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**1. TITLES:**

- A. Esther = star, secret, hidden
- B. The Book of Providence

**2. AUTHOR:**

Possibly written by Mordecai (9:20).

**3. DATE:**

- A. Covers approximately 10 years, from the third year (1:3) of the reign of Ahasuerus to the twelfth year (3:7) of his reign. Chronologically it occurs between the sixth and seventh chapters of Ezra.
- B. Probably written between 450 and 420 B.C.

**4. KEY WORDS:**

- A. King ('s) - 195
- B. Jew (s, s') - 53
- C. Queen – 27

**5. KEY VERSES: 4:14**

**6. PURPOSE:**

- A. To illustrate God's providential care for the Jews that did not return with the first remnant.
- B. To recount the origin of the Jewish feast of Purim (3:6, 7; 9:26-28).

**7. MESSAGE:**

- A. Though unseen, the hand of Divine providence guides, guards, and over-rules in, through and above the affairs of men, keeping watch and preserving His own elect.
- B. Those who attempt to destroy the people of God will be destroyed themselves.

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## 8. OUTLINE:

- I. The Feast of Ahasuerus - Ch. 1-2
- II. The Feast of Esther - Ch. 3-7
- III. The Feast of Purim - Ch. 8-10

## 9. SUMMARY:

In this book we see King Ahasuerus of Persia setting aside Queen Vashti (Feast of Ahasuerus). Esther, who was then chosen to be the bride-queen, was brought in and prepared by the ministries of Mordecai and Hegai (Feast of Esther). Then when Haman, the Agagite, rose up against the Jews, Esther called a national fast and at the risk of her own life brought deliverance to the Jewish people. The Feast of Purim was then initiated to be celebrated annually to commemorate the death of Haman (hung on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai) and the deliverance and preservation of the Jews. Esther is the last of three post-exilic historical books;

Ezra - Restoration of the Temple ----- Religious

Nehemiah - Reconstruction of the City Walls ----- Political

Esther - Preservation of the House of Judah ----- National

NOTE: The name of God is not mentioned once in Esther but it is hidden in Hebrew acrostic form four times in the book.

## 10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as the King, for whom the church (Esther) is prepared to be married to by the ministry of the Word (Mordecai) and the Spirit (Hegai).