

# Esther

Setting: Some translations name the king Xerxes. Others name him Ahaseurus. He was the elder son of Darius and became king of Persia from 486-465bc. Esther takes place around 480bc (2:16), which puts her about 35 years after the Temple had been rebuilt in Jerusalem and about 35 years before Ezra goes there. (Daniel died ~538bc)

## Chapters 1-2

1. What do we learn about Esther's background? about Mordecai?
2. What were some of the events that led to Esther becoming queen of Persia?
3. What thoughts do you think might have gone through Esther's mind as she is taken to the king's harem?

## Chapters 3-4

1. What was the history between Agagites and Jews that might explain Haman's hatred of them?
2. What steps did Haman take to deal with Mordecai's refusal to pay him honor?
3. Why do we learn from the conversation between Esther and Mordecai?
4. What part do you think these 3 days of fasting played in the story's outcome?

## Chapters 5-6

1. What captures your attention about each of the main characters?

## Chapters 7-10

1. What happens to each of our main characters in this story?
  - a. Esther
  - b. King Xerxes
  - c. Haman
  - d. Mordecai
2. How are the Jews saved from annihilation?

**What do you learn from Esther?**

**Although "God" is never mentioned in this book, how do you see His hand in it?**

