## **Esther**

Chapter One

 Esther is the only book in the Bible in which there is no reference to the God of Israel, the covenant, the Torah, nor the city of Jerusalem.

 While God is not mentioned at all, His hand of protection is seen throughout its story. Why? Because they are remaining in Babylon when they should have returned to the promised land.

 It is the only book of the Hebrew Bible not found in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Why is it even in the Bible? Paul has the answer for us:

***1st Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.***

 While Esther is a book about Israel's historic deliverance in the past, **it is also a book filled with pictures of Israel's future** **deliverance** under the rule of a man more wicked than any that has ever walked the face of this earth (The Anti-Christ).

 Its story takes place between the events found in Ezra and Nehemiah. Which makes it a book about the captivity of Israel.

In the days of Ahasuerus

**1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)**

**In the days of Ahasuerus:** Ahasuerus is also known as Artaxerxes, who ruled from 486 to 465 B.C.E.

 His reign can be read about in the secular history books also in the chronicles of the kings of the Medes and the Persians. He is mentioned in Ezra 4:6 and Daniel 9:1.

 You will however notice the absence of Mordecai and Esther's stories in them as they have been expunged by some historians who are bent on removing Jews from history.

***Daniel 9:1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;***

 This book is about Jews still living in Babylon when the captivity had ended. Ezra and Nehemiah had already led Judah back to the land.

**2 That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace,**

**Shushan the palace:** Persepolis was the capital of the empire, but for this story we find ourselves in Shushan, about 200 miles east of Babylon. See Daniel 8:2.

 The king had many palaces throughout his realm, and it becomes obvious that he favored this one above all others, especially as he saw his kingdom diminishing, he would retreat to the farthest reaches of his kingdom for his own protection.

**3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him:**

**In the third year:** The book of Daniel starts out the same way, in the third year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar.

 Three is a very significant number in scripture especially as it relates to prophetic things which we will look at deeper in the following chapters.

 For now, just imagine a little calendar that begins with the beginning of Ahasuerus reign and now we find ourselves three years down the road of peace and tranquility before we see another measurement of time that is very interesting.

**All his princes:** They are listed later in verse fourteen.

**4 When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days.**

**An hundred and fourscore days:** 180 days. For half a Jewish year this display of wealth, glory and virtual peace went on before Ahasuerus princes and servants.

 This would bring us to a total of three-and one-half years on our prophetic calendar which is a very significant marking of time as far as prophecy goes when one considers the words of Daniel.

 The Book of Daniel depicts an event which is to yet occur that parallels this story which happens in the middle of Daniel's seventieth week (at the three-and-a-half-year point).

 This is also a picture of the Jews having peace for three and half years before great tribulation breaks out at the midpoint of Daniel's seventieth week when the prince that shall come breaks the covenant of peace with Israel and becomes her worse nightmare.

***Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.***

 This commandment, found in Nehemiah 2:6, was given by the Persian king Cyrus who just so happened to be Esther's stepson. Notice that there are two princes in Daniel, not one.

 One Prince is of course the Messiah with a capital P, and the other wicked prince is the prince that shall come is identified with a small p.

 A week in the bible is identified as a seven-year period as in the story of Jacob serving seven years to fulfill Rachel's week. See Genesis 29:27.

God is typified here in this story by king Ahasuerus, and I believe he is showing through this story how he has blessed the people of the world with everything that they have. This type will become clearer as we proceed throughout the story.

**5 And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;**

**When these days were expired:** There weretwo feastshere, one at the beginning of the hundred and eighty days with his princes and servants, and the other at the end of those days with everyone in the palace invited.

 Each feast lasted only seven days. Seven is another number that is used a lot in the time of Jacob's trouble. See Jeremiah 30:7.

**6 Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble. 7 And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king. 8 And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.**

 These feasts are symbolic of God's dealings with his people. The Jews celebrate feasts which foreshadow future events, but what they all foreshadow will be celebrated and understood in all their glory in the presence of God one day in the kingdom.

Enter the queen

**9 Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus.**

 Vashti was also one of many wives and concubines belonging to Ahasuerus. She was most likely of Indian descent as her name suggests, and as verse two of this chapter informs us that India was one of the territories that Persia reigned over.

 It was expected that every ruler would have many wives which served as representatives of their respective homelands. This provided some unity and understanding of the issues in each area that Ahasuerus reigned over.

The seven chamberlains

**10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, 11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.**

**The seven chamberlains:** Watch for some of their names to come up later even in a plot to kill Ahasuerus. (Bigtha). They were keepers of the door to the kings chambers.

**Harbona:** He actually recommends that Hamman be killed on his own gallows that he made for the Jews. See Esther 7:9.

**With the crown royal:** With the crown jewels.

**12 But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.**

 While Ruth and Vashti are both Gentiles, Vashti is a Gentile who rebels against the authority of Ahasuerus, who represents God.

 Ruth, on the other hand, is quite submissive and pictures Gentiles coming to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob during the time of the tribulation period and in the future kingdom.

 Vashti does not represent the church in this story, she represents the Gentiles from Adam to Babel prior to the Jews coming into existence as no Jews have been mentioned so far in this story.

 God gave them (the Gentiles) up and over to a reprobate mind because they chose not to worship and serve the Creator.

 God was calling Gentiles a long time before he called the first Jew, but most of them refused his offer and were banished from his presence for eternity as the whole generation was in Noah's day, but then God called out the first Jew named Abram and made for himself a people to do his will.

The seven princes of Persia and Media

**13 Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:**

**The wise men, which knew times:** They knew history, religion, and politics. Daniel is not listed here because he has been dead a while.

The seven princes of Persia and Media

**14 And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom;)**

**15 What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?**

**16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes,**

**Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus. 17 For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not. 18 Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath. 19 If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she. 20 And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.**

**21 And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan: 22 For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.**

 The Gentiles had messed up prior to the flood, and after those days God chose out a Jew from which he would bless the Gentile nations. Esther is a type of the nation of Israel.

Chapter Two

The hidden beauty of Esther

**1 After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her. 2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him,**

**Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king: 3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them: 4 And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti.**

**And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.**

**Fair young virgins:** Finding young virgins was not hard for the king to choose from, even amongst the mostly secular Jews that chose to stay in Babylon. The more religious Jews left with Ezra and Nehemiah years ago.

**5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;**

**A certain Jew whose name was Mordecai:** The name Mordecai is not used in Hebrew literature prior to this time, and it was not his birth name, but one assigned to him that gave glory to the heathen god Marduke.

**Kish:** He was the brother was Abiel. 1st Samuel 9:1 (Spelled Abihail in verse 15 of this chapter.

 This would make Mordecaia descendant of king Saul's brother. A couple of generations are left out of this lineage as is common in Scripture.

**The son of Shimei, the son of Kish:** Remember Abishai had asked David to let him kill Shimei for his ridiculing of David, but David said, let him curse. See 2nd Samuel 16:5-14.

 Had David allowed Abishai to kill Shimei, then Mordecai and Esther would have never been born. Haman would have been victorious in eradicating the Jews.

 Some say Haman would not have gotten mad if it were not for Mordecai's refusal to bow, but remember their families have had a long history and Haman was bound to use his position to end that feud.

 Fifty-thousand Jews had already returned to Israel, but two special Jews remained behind to help deliver them.

**6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.**

 The first group went to Babylon in 607 BC, and the second group went in 597 BC.

**7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.**

**He brought up Hadassah:** Hadassah in Hebrew means myrtle. He raised Esther. Once again, we see a new name to Judaism, that of Esther, which means, **hidden**.

**His uncle’s daughter:** His younger cousin. Esther is a variation of the name for the pagan goddess **Ishtar**.

**Her father:** Her father’s name was Abihail. Spelled Abiel in 1st Samuel 9:1. He was Kish’s brother.

**8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.**

The kings house

**9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.**

**He speedily gave her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her:** A young Jewish girl required different things for her purification than did young women from other cultures.

**He preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women:** It could be that Esther got to have her own friends serve her as her maids.

 Notice also that Israel, through Esther, is given things for her purification, with such things as belonged to her. God will pour out his Spirit in those days to Israel as he did to Israel on Pentecost. See Acts 2.

**10 Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.**

 Is it right for a person to hide their identity when faced with annihilation? Yes, there are times when it is right such as in the Holocaust, and in the time that is to come upon Israel during the seventieth week of Daniel known as the time of Jacob's trouble. See Jeremiah 30:7.

**11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her. 12 Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;) 13 Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house. 14 In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name.**

**To wit:** More specifically, or to be precise.

**In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned:** All these women spent one night with the king.

**The second house of the women:** Not the original house of the women, but a new one specifically for this selection process.

The turn of Esther

**15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.**

**Esther obtained favour:** Here we see the lineage of Mordecai and Esther, while we already know that they are Jews. We now have proof as to which tribe they are from.

 We already know that it is Judah that is in captivity here in Shushan, but we must also remember that it was Benjamin that sided with Judah while all of the other ten tribes split away and later became known as Israel.

 The two remaining tribes became known as Judah. See 1st Kings 12:19.

 It was Benjamin that was responsible under king Saul to annihilate the Amalekites, but Saul left some of them alive, king Agag’s (the king of the Amalekites) children became known as Agagites, and they later came back to haunt Israel. Haman was an Agagite.

**16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. 17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.**

 It is interesting to note that it is in the middle of tenth month of the seventh year that God shortens the days for the elects' sake (believing Jews) so that some flesh may be saved. See Matthew 24:22.

Esther’s feast

**18 Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.**

**The king made a great feast:** God will have a great feast one day.

**Even Ester’s feast:** Two feasts, not one.

The king’s gate

**19 And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate.**

**The second time:** The first time was when all the virgins arrived at the palace, one year earlier.

**The king’s gate:** The gate where counselors worked at that was near the king’s house, so they could be close to the king to inform him of important matters.

 **20 Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.**

 Here we have a Mordecai telling the queen of the Persian Empire what to do, and she is submissive to him. She could have just blown him off. Mordecai taught Esther right and she had their peoples' best interest in mind.

 A submissive individual will place others ahead of themselves as she did again later on when she jeopardized her life going before the king.

The plot to assassinate the king

**21 In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. 22 And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name. 23 And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.**

**Bigthan and Teresh:** Two of Ahasuerus’ chamberlains.

 Many Jews will once again hide their identity during the time of Jacob's trouble in order to remain alive.

 There is coming a day however just after that 7-year tribulation period that Israel will never again have to hide who she is, and that is a time known as the millennial kingdom of Christ.

 Notice also that Mordecai saves the king's life, and nothing is done about it.

**Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai’s name:** Esther made known the matter in Mordecai’s name. She said Mordecai had told her of the murder plot. See Ezra 4:13-15.

**The book of the chronicles:** The chronicles of the Medes and the Persians. Not 1st and 2nd Chronicles. See Esther 10:2.

Chapter Three

The promotion of Haman

**1 After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.**

 Haman arises out of nowhere to become number two in the whole empire, just like Lucifer said he would do one day.

 Two chamberlains had just been executed by the king for their plot to assassinate the king and Ahasuerus may have wanted to bring in an outsider to shake things up a bit. The future anti-christ comes in in much the same way.

 Haman is guided by Lucifer’s philosophy for career advancement. Notice what he said in his heart and see if it parallels Haman’s brief exaltation:

***Isaiah 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*** *\* Stars of God are called princes, and principalities.*

**The Agagite:** Haman is identified as a member of the Agag family. The Agagites were the king’s line from the Amalekites who were also the enemies of the Israelites.

 The Amalekites were descendants from Esau. You will see that his descendants are still angry over losing their birthright to the descendants of Jacob.

 The Amalekites were the first to attack the Hebrews after they left Egypt in the exodus. They also harassed the Israelites during the early monarchy.

 Saul's failure to eliminate Agag and the Amalekites was one cause of his demise. The book of Esther implies that Mordecai finally got the job done by eliminating Haman.

 Here we see God in type, represented by the king, promoting the Anti-Christ during the time of Jacob's trouble.

 Both God and Satan can promote someone, but God can checkmate anything Satan has done.

**2 And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and reverenced Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.**

**All the king’s servants, that were in the king’s gate bowed:** Mordecai was there working every day, and Haman had to see him every day.

 The ruler during the time of Jacob's trouble will require that all the world worship him as well, but some Jews (the remnant) will refuse. See Jeremiah 30:7.

**But Mordecai bowed not:** Mordecai is type of the multitudes of bold Jewish witnesses that God seals during the tribulation period (the time of Jacob's trouble) which stand up to this Anti-Christ.

**3 Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai,**

**Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?**

 These servants were most likely the same seven mentioned in chapter one verse fourteen which Haman was promoted over for they all have the ear of Haman on a daily basis as we shall see in the next few verses.

**4 Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew.**

**Mordecai’s matters would stand:** To see if Mordecai’s reason for not bowing would be acceptable.

Mordecai had told the others in the gate that he would not bow to Haman because he was a Jew.

 The Jews, and the world, will be tried for ten days during the time of Jacob's trouble to take the Mark of the Beast and must endure the temptation until the end of those days. See Revelation 2:10.

 Multitudes will fail this trial, but God will have lifted the partial blindness that is presently upon the nation of Israel today and many will stand strong with their Messiah. See Romans 11:25.

 Mordecai tells us plainly why he would not bow to Haman, but I believe some make it more spiritual than it may be. God very carefully lets us know the ancestry of these two individuals, so we have our answer.

 Mortdecai tells Esther not to tell her ethnicity while he himself takes a stand. We as believers need to know when to speak and when to remain silent.

 It would have been foolish for Esther to reveal her ethnicity at that time for no reason. When it came time for Esther to proclaim who she was and stand with her people she gladly did.

**5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath. 6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.**

**And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone:** He wanted him dead.

**They had shewed him the people of Mordecai:** The others at the gate had showed Haman that Mordecai was a Jew.

 The Antichrist will sit upon the throne of God declaring that he is God and will demand worship at the mid-point of the time of Jacob's trouble and the Jews will rebel and go into captivity at that time fleeing from the Antichrist, then will Matthew twenty-four come into play.

***Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. 23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. 24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25 Behold, I have told you before. 26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. 27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.***

 Israel will need to heed the words of Matthew 24:26-27 and not fall for those who will pretend to be the Messiah during those last three-and one-half years.

 When He comes back all the world will know, because He will come back like lightning and all the world shall see.

They cast Pur (the lot).

**7 In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.**

**They cast Pur:** The casting of Pur (lots) was a pagan practice of divination used to determine the best day to perform his wicked deeds. Astrologers and soothsayers used this and many other methods to determine the will of the spirits.

**8 And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus,**

**There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. 9 If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.**

 Notice that Haman didn't name the people that he wanted to be killed, because he didn't want to be seen as an anti-Semite or something, but he referred to them as a certain people.

 Haman wanted it to be written in the Law of the Medes and the Persians because as we learned earlier from Memucan, the Law could not be altered.

 Haman had used deceit to get his way. The world leader will one day make war against the Jews again and God will allow it for their rejection of his Son which will bring many of them to their knees in repentance.

 When it says that all the people be destroyed throughout your kingdom, this also meant those back in Israel who were bogged down by their enemies from rebuilding their nation.

 Haman agreed to pay for this genocide out of his own pocket, but he would recoup his losses in the end because in the decree it is said that they make take all the spoil of these people they were about to destroy.

**10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy. 11 And the king said unto Haman,**

**The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.**

 The man of sin in the end times is also the enemy of the Jews simply because they are the apple of God's eye. Satan hates and opposes what God loves. See 2nd Thessalonians 2:3.

**12 Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.**

 Similar letters will go out duringthe time of Jacob's trouble against the Jews, and they will be seen as enemies of the one world government.

 They will be seen as religious extremists, and the world will have no place for their political incorrectness.

**13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.**

 It will appear that all is lost for the Jews during the last days, but God has never forgotten his chosen people and never will.

 The thing that slips the mind of the casual reader is the day on which this event is to take place. Passover! One year from the following day.

 The day in which God delivered Israel from the Egyptians, Satan will now choose as his day for their destruction.

 The Arab nations also tried this on Yom Kippur in 1973, the day of Atonement. It didn't work for Haman back then and will not work now.

**14 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day. 15 The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.**

 Just when the Devil, and his servant (Haman) a type of the Anti-Christ, think they have their plan working perfectly God shows up on the scene as we shall see in the next chapters.

**But the city Shushan was perplexed:** They knew the Jews were wonderful people and they were concerned as to why this was happening and could it happen to others in the future.

Chapter Four

For such a time as this

**1 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;**

 The two witnesses will be in sackcloth and ashes as they cry out during the time of Jacob's trouble as well.

**2 And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. 3 And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.**

 Many Jews will one day cry out to God and ask for their own forgiveness, but it will take a situation such as this one to humble them and God has one prepared.

 It is sad, but it often takes great trials to bring a proud people to their knees to seek God's forgiveness.

**4 So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not. 5 Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was. 6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate. 7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. 8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people. 9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.**

 The Jews will go into captivity once again during the time of Jacob's trouble, and many like Esther will be called upon to petition their leaders to save the Jews.

 America, and the world, should have done more to liberate the Jews from the concentration camps, but a worse fate awaits the Jews during this time, which is unlike any other in history that is to come upon Israel.

**10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai; 11**

**All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.**

**12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.**

 Esther was a great woman, but she was only human, and the Creator of this universe has put inside each of us a desire to live, so Esther informed Mordecai that the reason she has not spoken up as of yet is that she would have possibly been put to death.

 If she waited a while until he came out of court, she could ask him her petition without the risk of death. She was literally asking for a little more time.

**13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther,**

**Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. 14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?**

 Mordecai's reply was short and to the point, Esther, there is no time to wait! If you do not act immediately, we may all be dead very soon.

**15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,**

**16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.**

**17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.**

 The book strongly cautions the Jews not to forget their identity, or to think that they can somehow find safety by blending in.

 Mordecai pointed out to Esther that assimilating was not an option, and her position at court would not ultimately protect her.

 There is an implication that Jews must stick together, for their survival. Notice also that Esther tells Mordecai to get all the Jews together in Shushan, and they were too fast for her.

 Fasting is a part of the feast of Purim that is celebrated today because of Esther's actions. Sadly, there will be much fasting going on during the last three- and one-half years of Jacob's trouble, as the Jews are dispersed into the wilderness.

Chapter Five

The golden sceptre

**1 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.**

**The third day:** This a reference to the third day of the fast that she had asked Mordecai and all the Jews of Shushan to participate in.

**2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.**

 It was the fasting of the Jews unto God that brought Esther into favor with the king. Without their fasting Esther would most likely have been banished for her civil disobedience, just as Vashti once was.

**3 Then said the king unto her,**

**What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.**

**To the half of the kingdom:** This seems to be a familiar response by kings to beautiful women. Herod offered the same to Herodias when she danced for him and yet no one took these kings up on their gracious offers.

**4 And Esther answered,**

**If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.**

**5 Then the king said,**

**Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said.**

**So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.**

 Esther was brilliant in not asking her request in front of everyone including many of the Jews' enemies, instead she asks the king to come to a private feast and then she will make her petition known.

**6 And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine,**

**What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.**

**7 Then answered Esther, and said,**

**My petition and my request is; 8 If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.**

**Grant my petition, an perform my request:** Esther asks for them to come to a second banquet the next day. Why would she do that? Because God was working through this delay.

**9 Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.**

 How easy it was for Haman to change from joyful to being full of indignation. Perhaps this chance meeting wasn't by chance at all. Mordecai and Esther may have wanted to expose Haman's wrath.

**10 Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife. 11 And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.**

 Pride comes before a fall the bible says, and Haman is totally unaware of the trap that is being set before him. God actually will use your own pride to trip you up.

**12 Haman said moreover,**

**Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king. 13 Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.**

**All this availeth me nothing:** Haman is the wicked adversary of the Jews, and he doesn’t care about all the praise he is getting.

 He cares about eradicating the Jews, because if he cannot do that, then the Messiah will be born one day to save the world.

 The wicked are never satisfied. The Antichrist's anger will not rest even if he could kill every last Jew on the planet.

 Satan hates God and will seek to thwart everything that God is doing. He will seek to destroy everything that God loves, but all to no avail.

**14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him,**

**Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet.**

**And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.**

 Notice the counsel of his friends and his wife agreed with his twisted way of thinking. They said, kill Mordecai and have a great time at the party. All of this happened because someone wouldn't bow to him.

 Haman already was going to have the Jews killed on a set day, but he couldn't wait for the day that the decree was to be carried out.

 They convinced him that the king would honor his request and allow one Jew to die before all the others were scheduled to be killed.

Chapter Six

A miracle for Mordecai

**1 On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. 2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. 3 And the king said,**

**What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this?**

**Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him,**

**There is nothing done for him.**

 What a coincidence that the king could not sleep and wanted to read the chronicles of the kings of the Medes and the Persians that night.

 Maybe the king thought that would help put him to sleep, but God was the one who was keeping him awake. It was God that put it in the king's mind to read in the chronicles the story of Mordecai's saving his life just prior to Haman showing up to request Mordecai's life.

 If Mordecai had not fasted, he would have been dead. How many things could have been different if we would have sincerely gone to God as these people did.

**4 And the king said,**

**Who is in the court?**

**Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. 5 And the king's servants said unto him,**

**Behold, Haman standeth in the court.**

**And the king said,**

**Let him come in.**

**6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him,**

**What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour?**

**Now Haman thought in his heart,**

**To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?**

**7 And Haman answered the king,**

**For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, 8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: 9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.**

 Haman wants the same thing that Satan wants-to be exalted above all others. Haman would not have been content once Mordecai was out of the picture; he would have been plotting to overthrow the king just as Satan is trying to do today.

***Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.***

**10 Then the king said to Haman,**

**Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.**

 Praise the Lord! I am reminded of the words of the apostle Paul when he said to the Ephesians:

***Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,***

**11 Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him,**

**Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.**

 Mordecai is enlightened that the king wishes to honor him by none other than the man who hates him the most. Mordecai didn't learn that Haman wanted to kill him on that day, it wasn’t until many days later.

 How many things have we averted by our prayers that we don't even know about? These will all be brought to our attention once we put on immortality in the presence of our great God.

**12 And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered. 13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him,**

**If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.**

**14 And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hasted to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.**

 No truer words ever were spoken. Haman was about to fall before the Jew Mordecai, and before all the Jews which he sought to destroy, just as Satan, the Anti-Christ, and false prophet will in the later days.

Chapter Seven

Esther’s second feast

**1 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. 2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine,**

**What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.**

**3 Then Esther the queen answered and said,**

**If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: 4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.**

**For we are sold:** Haman had sold them.

 What a testimony that Esther and her people would have accepted slavery and had not bothered the king with their selfish petition for clemency.

 God has promised in His word that as long as He lives that the children of Israel would not cease to live.

 I'll bet Haman was choking on his food as he heard the words of the Queen, for he did not know that Esther was a Jew as well, nor did he know of her kinship with Mordecai, for had he known he would have devised a better plan.

**5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen,**

**Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?**

**6 And Esther said,**

**The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman.**

**Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. 7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.**

 Just as his wife and friends had said, Haman was now falling down before the Jews and begging for his own life.

 It was Esther (a Jew) who identifies the adversary to the king at that time, and God has given to Israel the key to figuring out who the Anti-Christ is during the time of Jacob's trouble.

 We, in the dispensation of grace, cannot figure it out. The Jews will figure it out for the world at the mid-point of the tribulation period.

***Revelation 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.***

**8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king,**

**Will he force the queen also before me in the house?**

**As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. 9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king,**

**Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman.**

**Then the king said,**

**Hang him thereon.**

**10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.**

 Just as Satan has persecuted and tormented the Jews, so will he be punished for all eternity in a Lake of Fire, never again to trouble the apple of God's eye, the Jews.

Chapter Eight

The decree of deliverance

**1 On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her. 2 And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.**

**The house of Haman:** The house of the number two ruler in all the empire became Esther and Haman’s.

**The Jews enemy:** Haman is Mordecai’s enemy, and his people (the Agagites) the enemies of Mordecai’s people (the Jews).

 Esther is beloved of the king, and he has Haman killed because he finds out she is a Jew and about to be destroyed.

**Esther had told what he was unto her:** She told the king that Mordecai was her uncle, and that she was also Jewish.

**3 And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.**

**To put away the mischief of Haman:** To dismantle Haman’s plot to kill all the Jews throughout the kingdom.

**The device that he had devised against the Jews:** This iseither a reference to the gallows that Haman had built nearby, or the letter that he devised to destroy the Jews everywhere.

**4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king, 5 And said,**

**The king held out the golden sceptre:** If he did not hold it out when he was interrupted, the violator would be put to death.

**If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces: 6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?**

**Let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman:** See chapter 4:1-13.

**7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew,**

**Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews. 8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.**

 Herein lies the dilemma, since the king's writing could not be reversed, the enemies of the Jews would be gathering on the date of the first decree to destroy the Jews, so a new decree needed to be written to give the Jews the means to defend themselves against their adversaries.

**9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language. 10 And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries: 11 Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey, 12 Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar. 13 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.**

 Not only was Israel delivered from the hands of their enemies, but they were also given the means to fight and destroy their enemies by the king, who represents God in this story who delivers the Jews in the time of Jacob's trouble.

**14 So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace. 15 And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. 16 The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour. 17 And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.**

**The posts that rode upon mules:** Postmen that delivered the mail.

 God was glorified because of the faith of these two Jews, and many people joined the faith because they saw the power of the God of Israel.

 To become a Jew these individuals had to of course become circumcised and follow the Law. Today however, we are not under the law but under grace. See Romans 6:14-15.

Chapter Nine

The days of Purim

**1 Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;) 2 The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.**

 Not only did the king give the Jews the means to protect themselves, but God placed a fear on all the people of the Jews. This commandment was to be carried out one year from the date of the decree.

**3 And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. 4 For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater. 5 Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them. 6 And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men. 7 And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, And Aspatha, 8 And Poratha, And Adalia, And Aridatha, 9 And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha, 10 The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand.**

 Just as the Antichrist has ten leaders (horns) so Haman had ten sons, and both groups of ten are destroyed by God for their opposition to the Jewish nation. See Daniel 7 & Revelation 12, 13 and 17. This is no coincidence.

 Notice that at the end of six of their names you see them ending with the same five letters, **atha**, which means **self.** Haman gave all ten of his children very boastful names.

 The blot against king Saul and the tribe of Benjamin has now been erased with the death of Haman and his ten sons, thus blotting out the name of Amalek, Israel's first enemy forever.

 Notice here also that the Jews did not take the spoil of the Amalekites, this is because Esther and Mordecai knew that their ancestor king Saul had done the very opposite thing and kept the spoil, to sacrifice of course.

 They would not make the same mistake. God told Israel that they would be at war with them until they were blotted out completely.

***Exodus 17:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.***

**11 On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought before the king. 12 And the king said unto Esther the queen,**

**The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? now what is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: or what is thy request further? and it shall be done.**

**13 Then said Esther,**

**If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do to morrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.**

**14 And the king commanded it so to be done: and the decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons.**

 Notice here in verse twelve that Haman's ten sons were dead already at the hand of the Jews in Shushan, but in verse fourteen we read that they were later hanged.

 This was for the public to see and to fear the same fate if they should touch the Lord's anointed. For the Jews all knew the words of Moses:

***Deuteronomy 21:23 His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;).***

**15 For the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and slew three hundred men at Shushan; but on the prey they laid not their hand. 16 But the other Jews that were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey, 17 On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. 18 But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness. 19 Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another. 20 And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far, 21 To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly, 22 As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor. 23 And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them; 24 Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them; 25 But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. 26 Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them, 27 The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year; 28 And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed. 29 Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim. 30 And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth, 31 To confirm these days of Purim in their times appointed, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry. 32 And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book.**

 The Jewish people were given this feast of Purim as a memorial of God's past victory over his enemies, this memorial should serve to prepare the nation for the next time Satan tries to destroy God's chosen people during the time of Jacob's trouble.

 That time is fast approaching these unsuspecting people because they have not learned the lesson from the book of Esther.

Chapter Ten

The greatness of Mordecai

**1 And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea.**

**A tribute:** A yearly tax.

 It was during this time in the Persian empire that the Jews were liberated from their oppressors in Samaria and Shechem which allowed them to eventually rebuild their temple.

**2 And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?**

**The greatness of Mordecai:** The greatness of Haman was spoken about in chapter two, but it is not about how you start that is as important as it is how you finish your race.

 The Jews will rule and reign with Christ in their coming kingdom and I am sure Mordecai will have a special place in it, as will Esther.

**3 For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.**

 After the death of Haman, the Jews have a long period of peace just as they will for a thousand years after the time of Jacob's trouble when they enter their millennial kingdom.

 Where is God in the story of Esther? He is on every page, and He is there even when you cannot see Him.

The End

**Esther Tests 2.5 Credit Hours**

**Chapter One Test**

1. How many times is God mentioned in Esther?

2. Name 2 things not mentioned in Esther:

3. Is Esther found in the Dead sea scrolls?

4. Why did the things that happened to Israel in this story occur?

5. What 2 books take place at roughly the same time as Esther?

6. Who are the 3 main characters in the book and who do they represent in type?

7. When did this story take place in time? What years?

8. Who does Ahasuerus picture in the story?

9. How many years have passed since Ahasuerus reign began and Vashti's disobedience?

10. How long does Ahasuerus show all his wealth and majesty to the leaders?

11. How many feasts are mentioned in this chapter and how long do they last?

12. Who does Vashti picture in history?

**Chapter Two Test**

1. What is the solution to Ahasueras' wrath concerning Vashti?

2. Who is Mordecai related to?

3. Who was Shimei?

4. What did Abishai want David to do to Shimei in 2 Samuel 16:5-9?

5. What would have happened if David listened to Abishai?

6. What is Esther's Hebrew name?

7. What does Esther mean? Who is she named after?

8. What does Esther and Mordecia represent?

9. What do the 7 maidens and the things for her purification symbolize?

10. Why did Esther not let anyone know she was a Jew?

11. When does Esther get taken into Ahashueras' house?

12. What happens to Israel in the time of Jacob's trouble at that same time?

13. What did Mordecai prevent from happening?

**Chapter Three Test**

1. Who gets promoted above all the princes of the provinces?

2. What did all the people have to do concerning this individual when they saw him?

3. What reason did Mordecai give for not obeying the kings commandment?

4. What was Haman's reaction to Mordecai's refusal when he heard he was a Jew?

5. When does Haman try to exterminate the Jews?

6. What does the decree picture in the time of Jacob's trouble?

**Chapter Four Test**

1. What two people from Israel will be in sack cloth during the tribulation period?

2. Will Jews cry out to God for deliverance in the time of Jacob's trouble?

3. What did Mordecai tell Esther to do?

4. What was Esther's initial response?

5. What did Mordecai command Esther to do and why?

6. What does Esther tell Mordecai to do that she does as well?

**Chapter Five Test**

1. What is the reason for them fasting in this story?

2. How did fasting help Esther before the king?

3. Why does Esther ask the king and Haman to a private feast before asking her petition?

4. What two feelings does Haman show in just a short amount of time?

5. What does Haman brag to his friends and family about?

6. Who will not rest until he has killed every last Jew on earth?

**Chapter Six Test**

1. What did God do to king Ahashueras that night that benefited Mordecai?

2. What did Haman really want the king to do and how does that picture the antichrist?

3. What happened to Haman's plan and Satan's plan in the future concerning the Jew?

4. What eventually happens to Satan and his crowd at the end of the tribulation period?

**Chapter Seven Test**

1. What did Esther request from the king?

2. Who will figure out who the antichrist is in the tribulation period?

3. What happened to Haman's plan as compared to Satan's?

**Chapter Eight Test**

1. Who replaced Haman and took over his house?

2. What does Esther ask of the king concerning her people?

3. What does the king allow Mordecai to do to deliver his people?

4. What did many people become because of the fear of the Jews that came upon them?

**Chapter Nine Test**

1. What happened to the Jews enemies in all the provinces during the days of Purim?

2. How many sons of Haman were there hanged?

3. How is that similiar to the antichrist and his confederates?

4. Why did Esther and Mordecai not take the spoil of Haman's sons?

5. What blot was removed from the history of the Benjamites because of these events?

6. How long were the Jews to celebrate the days of Purim for?

**Chapter Ten Test**

1. What was going on at this time back in Samaria and Shechem?

2. Where is the record of Mordecai found in antiquities?

3. What position in rank did Mordecai rise to in all the Empire?

4. Where was God in the story of Esther?