

Esther Commentaries

NEHEMIAH

Queen Esther (1879) by Edwin Long

JOB

Click to Enlarge Timeline
[Jensen's Survey of the OT](#) - used by permission
[Swindoll's Intro and Overview Chart](#)
[Van Dine's Analysis of Esther](#)
[MacArthur's Intro to Esther](#)

ESTHER RESOURCES

Esther Commentary, Sermon, Illustration, Devotional

CHRONOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIP OF EZRA-NEHEMIAH-ESTHER				
538-515 BC	483-473 BC	457 BC	13 Year Gap	444-425 BC
Ezra 1-6	Book of Esther	Ezra 7-10		Book of Nehemiah
First Return of Jews from Babylonian Exile	58 Year Gap	Second Return of Jews from Babylonian Exile		Third Return of Jews from Babylonian Exile

ESTHER: THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

Esther 1	Esther 2	Esther 3	Esther 4	Esther 5	Esther 6	Esther 7	Esther 8	Esther 9	Esther 10
Es 1:1-22	Es 2:1-23	Es 3:1-15	Es 4:1-17	Es 5:1-14	Es 6:1-14	Es 7:1-10	Es 8:1-17	Es 9:1-32	Es 10:1-3
Esther's Exaltation		Haman's Cunning Plot		Haman's Humiliation			Mordecai's Exaltation		
Feast of Ahasuerus		Fast of Mordecai		Feast of Esther			Feast of Purim		
Exaltation		Persecution		Preservations			Commemoration		
Jewish Existence Threatened			Jews Spared						
Gentile Setting	Jewess Elevated	Threat to Jews	Influence of a Jewess				Deliverance of Jews		A Jew Exalted
Feast of Ahasuerus				Feast of Esther and Purim					
Location of Events: Persian									
10 Years (483-473BC)									
Timeline of Ezra-Nehemiah-Esther-See page 38									
Timeline of Esther related to Ezra & Nehemiah - Parallel lines for Medo-Persian Kings & Daniel, Zechariah, Haggai and Malachi - see page 15									
Here is a very nice timeline of Esther (see also)									

Modified from Jensen's excellent work "[Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament](#)"

Key Passages: Esther 4:14, 16, Esther 8:17, Esther 9:26, 31

Key Words: See list under "Precept Ministries Inductive Study on Esther"

The Book of Esther is unusual - God's Name is not mentioned once, yet God's "Hand" is clearly present and active throughout the book, to the extent that many see the book of Esther as a veritable "treatise" on the doctrine of Divine Providence (see separate study)

- [Purim Music Video - Purim with a beat. Give it a listen as you ponder "For such a time as this!"](#)
- Marty Goetz and Misha's song - [For Such A Time As This \(Esther's Song\)](#)

The Persian Empire at the Time of Esther c. 479 B.C.

Long before Esther's time, the people of Israel and Judah (later called Jews) had been dispersed throughout the Near East by the Assyrians and the Babylonians. Eventually the Persians absorbed nearly all of these lands into their empire, which reached its greatest extent during the time of Esther. Thus Haman's plot to exterminate all Jews throughout the Persian Empire would have annihilated virtually all of the Jewish people, and Esther's daring actions saved the whole nation from complete destruction. ([ESV.org](#))

"UPS AND DOWNS OF ESTHER'S MAJOR CHARACTERS"
 Source: [Bible Study Magazine - Volume 11, Issue 2, Jan/Feb, 2019](#)
 CLICK TO ENLARGE

PARTIES IN ESTHER	
Esther 1:3 Esther 1:5	Two Parties -Host- Ahasuerus, first for official, Second party for all in Susa
Esther 1:9	Host-Queen Vashti for palace women
Esther 2:18	Honor of Esther as new queen
Esther 3:15	After Haman receives permission to destroy Jews
Esther 5:4-8 Esther 7:2-6	Host-Esther For Ahasuerus and Haman
Esther 8:17	Celebration of Second Edict allowing Jews to fight
Esther 9:17 Esther 9:18-19	Two parties - Celebration of Jewish Deliverance

CHRONOLOGY OF ESTHER						
Events occur over 10 year period						
Ref	Event	Month	Day	Year of Reign	Year	
Est 1:3	Ahasuerus holds his banquets			3	483	
Est 2:16	Esther goes to Ahasuerus	10		7	479	
Est 3:7	Haman casts his lots	1		12	474	
Est 3:12	Haman issues his decree	1	13	13	474	
Est 3:13	Date planned for annihilation of the Jews	12	13	13	473	
Est 8:9	Mordecai issues his decree	3	23	13	473	
Est 8:12, 9:1	Day upon which Jews could defend themselves from attack	12	13	13	473	

Est 9:6-10, 20-22	Ten sons of Haman executed; Feast of Purim celebrated	12	14, 15	13	473
Source: ESV.org					

CHRIST IN ALL THE SCRIPTURES in the Book of Esther by A.M. HODGKIN

- [Christ in All the Scriptures - Contents](#)

Christ in the Historical Books - Esther --

The Book of Esther is designed to show God's providential care of His people. Though the name of God is not mentioned, the hand of God, ruling and over-ruling the events for the preservation of His people, can be seen throughout.

[Footnote: Dr. Bullinger points out that some Hebrew scholars have found the name "Jehovah" four times repeated in acrostic form in the Book of Esther.]

In the Talmud, the question is asked: "Where do we get Esther from the Law?" The answer is Deuteronomy 31:18, "And I will surely hide My face, or presence." God was hiding His face from His people on account of their sins; they had deliberately chosen to continue in the land of their captivity among the heathen, instead of availing themselves of the opportunity of returning to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel. The events in this book occur during the sixty years between the return of that first remnant and of the second under Ezra.

Prayer.

Though there is also no actual mention of prayer to God, it is distinctly implied in the mourning and fasting among the Jews when they heard the royal decree for their destruction (4:1-3); and again, when Esther ordered a three days' fast among her people before she ventured to go before the king (4:16). The Feast of Purim, instituted by Esther and Mordecai, witnesses still, not only to the truth of the narrative, but to a nation's gratitude and a memorial throughout all generations of their deliverance. "Their fastings and their cry" are also mentioned, and to whom could they cry but unto God? (9:17-32).

The Golden Sceptre. [Esther 4:11; 5:1-3]

The king holding out the golden sceptre has been an encouragement to many a saint of God in bringing their petitions to the King of kings. ([Play song Matt Foreman](#))

Thou art coming to a King;
Large petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and power are such,
None can ever ask too much.

We need never fear that our King will refuse us an audience, or that we shall incur His anger by drawing nigh; but there are seasons when He seems in a special manner to hold out the golden sceptre, and to give us more abundant access to Him in prayer.

Satan.

Behind the personal enmity of Haman [ch. 3] was the deeper malignity of Satan, seeking to make void the promises of God through the destruction of the whole Jewish race; for Xerxes was king over all the Jews in Palestine as well as over those in Persia and Babylon. Satan knew that the great Deliverer who was to arise of the House of David was to destroy his power, and we may trace his hand behind such events of history as Saul throwing his javelin at the youthful David [1Sam 18:9-11; 19:9,10], and Queen Athaliah's attempt to destroy all the seed royal [2Kin 11:1-3]. But God turned aside the blow in the one case, and nourished the infant Joash in the Temple courts in the other. The same enmity of the devil prompted Herod to slay the babes of Bethlehem, but God delivered His Son by sending Him into Egypt [Mat 2]. The great enemy succeeded in bruising His heel when he gathered together Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, against the Holy Child Jesus; but God raised Him from the dead.

Historic Accuracy.

There is hardly a book in the Bible, upon the trustworthiness of which there has been made so determined an attack, as the Book of Esther. [i.e., The trustworthiness of the Book of Esther has been attacked by determined critics.] But the writings of Herodotus and the discoveries at Xerxes's palace of Shushan by the Frenchman Dieulafoy, together bring out the truthfulness of every detail of the story.

[Footnote: "M. Dieulafoy has set up the bithan (apadana, the great banqueting-hall or throne-room) in the museum of the Louvre, where one can now see the remains of the marble pavement, of the hall of the feast." (New Biblical Guide, vol 7, p. 359, Rev. John Urquhart)]

The relative position of the different parts of the palace and gardens fit in exactly with the account in this book. The vain and capricious character of Ahasuerus-- the Xerxes of history-- his extravagant feast, the Persian names of the courtiers, the golden couches, the sceptre, the seal, the scribes, the posts, are all matters of history, if space permitted to examine them in detail. In the account of the king's feast (ch. 1:6), the hangings of the court are described as "white, green, and blue." The word translated "green" is really an old Persian word meaning "fine cotton." So it should read "hangings of fine purple and white cotton." These, Xenophon tells us, were the royal colors of Persia. The pillars of marble have been found in the court of the garden, and it is clear that the pavement was a mosaic, as described in v.6.

Salvation.

There have been various attempts to trace elaborate types in the Book of Esther, but the simple fact stands out that here was one who was willing to lay down her life for her people. It is here that we find Christ in the Book of Esther. A picture of Him who was not only willing, but who actually did lay down His life for us, and through whose intercession salvation is assured to us.

Opportunity.

But the great practical lesson for us, in this book, is the all-importance of using God-given opportunities. The power of life and death lies in these opportunities both to ourselves and to others. Mordecai was so sure of God's working that he sent Esther this message: "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?" (4:14). We may be tempted to think that our opportunities are so insignificant, our circle of influence so small, that they are of little importance; if we were a great queen, like Esther, it would be a different matter. But "who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Thou, whoever thou art, and whatever thy circumstances, thou art called to "reign in life by One, Jesus Christ" [Rom 5:17]. See to it that thou dost not miss thy opportunity. God has a purpose for each one of our lives. He has placed us where He can best use us for His glory. If we fail just there, it may be that He will work out His purpose in some other way; but we shall suffer untold loss. Like Esther, we must be ready to take our life in our hand and risk everything in His service.

THE OLD TESTAMENT PRESENTS...

Reflections of Christ in the Book of Esther

PAUL R. VAN GORDER

[OT Reflections of Christ - Contents](#)

ESTHER

The book of Esther is one of the most beautiful stories in all literature. Even though the name of God is not mentioned in it, no book of the Bible teaches His providence more forcefully. The book covers a period of about 12 years, falling somewhere between the events recorded in the sixth and seventh chapters of Ezra. The setting is the court of Xerxes, the king of Persia. The Bible refers to him as Ahasuerus. [The name Ahasuerus is also applied to an earlier king in Ezra 4:6.] At this period in history, a great number of Jews were still living in Persia.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK--

Haman's Ascendancy (Esther 1-5)

Haman was the enemy of the Jews and sought their extinction.

Mordecai's Ascendancy (6-10)

Mordecai was concerned for the welfare of his people, the Jews.

The record of Luke 24, particularly the journey of the risen Christ with the two disciples to Emmaus, states that "beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them, in all the scriptures, the things concerning Himself" (Luke 24:27). Where in the book of Esther, this book without the mention of God's name, do we find teachings about Christ?

I recommend that you read again the entire book to refresh your mind about the historical account. Before we consider where Christ is found in the book of Esther, we will consider some practical matters.

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD--

An unseen hand is at work behind all human affairs. Who shapes the destinies of nations-- politicians? Never! As a lad, I was fascinated by the operation of a certain machine in the Union Station in Pittsburgh. As we waited for an arriving train, we would stand at the desk in the ticket office and watch a machine with an electric pen attached. A roll of paper was located beneath that pen, and periodically it would begin to write. Some miles distant, somewhere up the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, a station-master or yard-master would be writing down the position of trains and their time of arrival on a similar scroll. The corresponding electric pen in the station would move in the exact handwriting of the originator. I was always amazed at that apparatus.

Similarly, the providential hand of an Almighty God is behind the destiny of nations. James Russell Lowell wrote,

"Truth forever on the scaffold,
Wrong forever on the throne;
But that scaffold sways the future,
And behind the dim unknown
Standeth God amid the shadows,
Keeping watch upon His own."

All things move by the knowledge of Almighty God, and according to His ordained plan and purpose. The book of Esther is a confirmation of Psalm 11:4, "The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the children of men." Woven into God's plans are the most minute details of human history. This is illustrated in the turn of events of the story of Esther. The rejection of a Gentile queen, the choice of Esther, and the finding of the records led finally to the exaltation of Mordecai and the sparing of the Jewish race.

Providence is not blind fate. The word "providence" means, "foresight coupled with activity." God alone is able to act on the basis of foreknowledge. The book of Esther sets forth two great doctrines: man's free will, and God's absolute sovereignty. Both are at work here. Haman made his plans and Mordecai was busy with his political maneuvering, yet all was done within the boundaries of God's direction.

THE FATE OF THE WICKED--

Another very practical lesson to be gained from the book of Esther is that the prosperity of the wicked is unsafe and unsatisfying, and that it ends in adversity. The experience of the psalmist is recorded as follows: "For I was envious of the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked" (Psalm 73:3). But then he continued in verses 16 and 17, "When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end."

We often see the adversity of the good alongside the prosperity of the wicked. We would tend to ask why, but the book of Esther shows us clearly that the trial of faith results in final victory for the righteous.

The book of Esther presents us with a picture of God's current relationship with the Jews. The Jewish people, as a whole, have been out of their land for 1900 years. During this time, they have been under many Gentile rulers. Satan repeatedly has had a "Haman" planning their destruction. But all along, God has been in the shadows watching over His covenant people Israel. Even though, in their present unbelief, they may refuse to recognize His hand, He continues His watchful care over His ancient people.

THE MESSIANIC PLAN--

Haman, the Jew-hater from the cursed seed of Amalek [cp. Esther 3:1; 1Sam 15:2,3,7,8], is a picture of the wicked one who will arise in the end-time of this age and seek the extermination of Israel. The "man of sin [will] be revealed, the son of perdition, who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, so that he, as God, sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (2Thessalonians 2:3,4). Just as Haman's end came by decree of the king, so Antichrist, the man of sin, will be destroyed by God's King, the Lord Jesus Christ. Haman was hanged on the gallows; the man of sin will be cast into the

lake of fire. [2The 2:8; Rev 19:11-20]

It appears to me that Esther foreshadows that faithful Jewish remnant in the days of the tribulation. Notice an expression that appears in chapter 5, verse 1, "Now it came to pass on the third day..." How beautifully this ties in with the prophecy of Hosea, "After two days will He revive us; in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight" (Hos 6:2). This speaks of the national resurrection of the remnant of Israel in the last days. Esther's Jewish name was Hadassah, meaning "myrtle." Afterward, it was changed to Esther, meaning "a star." This signifies what will happen to that nation in the future. God will take the remnant of believing Israel out of great suffering and trial and bring the nation to the place of exaltation.

Mordecai stands out as a figure of the Lord Jesus.

He was a despised Jew for whom the scaffold was built. The same scaffold proved to be the undoing of his enemy, and Mordecai was exalted to the throne. How forcefully this speaks of Him who is greater than Mordecai, and who will bring peace to His earthly people and the nations of the world.

Mordecai was the revealer of secrets. In Christ are hidden all the secrets of wisdom and knowledge, and He "of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1Cor 1:30).

Mordecai was elevated to the throne. He delivered Israel and was next in authority to the king. By the wonder-working providence and grace of Jehovah, salvation was interposed on behalf of the nation and the world.

Yes, the story of Christ is foreshadowed once again in the Old Testament in the account of Esther.

ESTHER COMMENTARY

Verse by Verse

- Author- [Bruce Hurt](#)
- Completed July, 2012
- See Commentary on Esther 4:14)

ESTHER 1

- Esther 1:1 Commentary
- Esther 1:2 Commentary
- Esther 1:3 Commentary
- Esther 1:4 Commentary
- Esther 1:5 Commentary
- Esther 1:6 Commentary
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ESTHER 2

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ESTHER 4

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ESTHER 5

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ESTHER 9

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- Esther 9:31 Commentary
- Esther 9:32 Commentary

ESTHER 10

- Esther 10:1 Commentary
 - Esther 10:2 Commentary
 - Esther 10:3 Commentary
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BOOKS YOU CAN BORROW FROM ARCHIVE.ORG

Explanation - Most of the resources below are newer commentaries (written after 1970) and other Bible resources which previously were available only for purchase in book form or in a Bible computer program. The resources are made freely available by archive.org but have several caveats - (1) they do not allow copy and paste, (2) they can only be checked out for one hour (but can be checked out immediately when your hour expires giving you time to read or take notes on a lengthy section) and (3) they require creating an account which allows you to check out the books free of charge. To set up an account click archive.org and then click the picture of the person in right upper corner and enter email and a password. That's all you have to do. Then you can read these more modern resources free of charge! I have read or used many of these resources but not all of them so ultimately you will need to be a Berean (Acts 17:11+) as you use them. I have also selected works that are conservative and Biblically sound. If you find one that you think does not meet those criteria please send an email at <https://www.preceptaustin.org/contact>. The resources are listed in alphabetical order by the author's last name and some include reviews of the particular resource.

[EXPOSITOR'S BIBLE COMMENTARY](#) - Volume 4 - 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, **Ezra, Nehemiah**, Esther, Job - 1092 pages (1976)

If you are eager to get a complete commentary set, I think the *Expositor's Bible Commentary* is probably the best of the bunch for your money. —Paul Westervelt, *Discipleship Journal*

The single work that I recommend to cover the whole Bible is *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. —Emmaus Journal, Emmaus Bible College

[The Book of Esther : its practical lessons and dramatic scenes](#) by Raleigh, Alexander

Cyril Barber - A refreshing study based on a literal interpretation of the text. Each character is analyzed with "insight approaching genius," to quote one reviewer, and the practical application of Scripture to life is accomplished with rare skill.

[Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther](#) by Larson, Knute. This is the Holman Old Testament Commentary - well done series

[Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther : a self-study guide](#) by Jensen, Irving

[Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther](#) by McConville, J. G [11 ratings](#)

[KJV Bible Commentary](#) - Hindson, Edward E; Kroll, Woodrow Michael. Over 3000 pages of the entire OT/NT - no restriction on length of time one can use it. No copy and paste. Well done conservative commentary that interprets Scripture from a literal perspective. [User reviews](#) - it generally gets 4/5 stars from users. - [372 ratings](#)

Very well done conservative commentary that interprets Scripture from a literal perspective (pre-millennial) [user reviews](#)

The King James Version Bible Commentary is a complete verse-by-verse commentary. It is comprehensive in scope, reliable in scholarship, and easy to use. Its authors are leading evangelical theologians who provide practical truths and biblical principles. Any Bible student will gain new insights through this one-volume commentary based on the timeless King James Version of the Bible.

[NKJV Study Bible: New King James Version Study Bible](#) by Radmacher, Earl D; Allen, Ronald Barclay; House, H. Wayne; [917 ratings](#) Very helpful notes. Conservative.

[New Bible Commentary](#) - Barry G Webb authored Judges. (1994) [See user reviews](#)

[Wycliffe Bible Commentary](#) - Charles Pfeiffer - 1560 pages (1962). [214 ratings](#) Less detailed than the KJV Bible Commentary.

[Believer's Bible Commentary](#) by MacDonald, William (1995) 2480 pages Dr. John MacArthur, Jr. - "Concise yet comprehensive - the most complete single-volume commentary I have seen." Warren Wiersbe - "For the student who is serious about seeing Christ in the Word."

[The Defender's Study Bible : King James Version](#) by Morris, Henry M. Excellent notes for well known creationist. [45 ratings](#)

[Compact Bible commentary](#) by Radmacher, Earl D; Allen, Ronald Barclay; House, H Wayne, et al - 954 pages. [424 ratings](#) Multiple contributors to the comments which are often verse by verse. The comments are brief but meaty and can really help your study through a given book. A sleeper in my opinion.

[The MacArthur study Bible](#) - John MacArthur. Brief but well done notes [1,275 ratings](#)

[The David Jeremiah study bible](#) - (2013) 2208 pages. [2,272 ratings Logos.com](#) - "Drawing on more than 40 years of study, Dr. David Jeremiah has compiled a legacy resource that will make an eternal impact on generations to come. 8,000 study notes. Hundreds of enriching word studies"50+ Essentials of the Christian Faith" articles."

[ESV study Bible](#) - Excellent resource but not always literal in eschatology and the nation of Israel [6,004 ratings](#)

[Life application study Bible](#) : New Living Translation. Has some very helpful notes. [4,445 ratings](#)

[NIV archaeological study Bible](#) (2005) 2360 pages [950 ratings](#)

[The NIV study Bible](#) by Barker, Kenneth L; Burdick, Donald W (1995) 2250 pages. Note this is the first edition. This resource has been fully revised in 2020.

[The Experiencing God Study Bible : the Bible for knowing and doing the will of God](#) - Blackaby, Henry (1996) 1968 pages - CHECK THIS ONE! Each chapter begins with several questions under the title "PREPARE TO MEET GOD." Then you will interesting symbols before many of the passages. The chapter ends with a "DID YOU NOTICE?" question. This might make a "dry chapter" jump off the page! Read some of the [48 ratings](#)

[The Ryrie study Bible](#) - Charles Ryrie (1978) 2142 pages. Conservative. [216 ratings](#)

[With the Word](#) - Devotional Commentary - Warren Wiersbe - [428 ratings](#)

[Wiersbe's expository outlines on the Old Testament](#) by Wiersbe, Warren W [113 ratings](#)

"Even the most difficult Scriptures come alive as Warren Wiersbe leads you book-by-book through the Old Testament and helps you to see the "big picture" of God's revelation. In this unique volume, you will find: • Introductions and/or outlines for every Old Testament book • Practical expositions of strategic chapters • Special studies on key topics, relating the Old Testament to the New Testament • Easy-to-understand expositions that are practical, preachable, and teachable If you have used Dr. Wiersbe's popular BE series, you know how simple and practical his Bible studies are, with outlines that almost teach themselves. If not, you can now discover a wonderful new resource. This work is a unique commentary on every book of the Old Testament. It contains new material not to be found in the BE series.

[Evangelical Commentary on the Bible](#) - Judges by Andrew Boling (20 pages); editor Walter Elwell (1989) 1239 pages. [User reviews](#). (See also Boling's [380 page commentary on Judges](#) the Anchor Bible Series)

[The Shaw pocket Bible handbook](#) - Editor - Walter Elwell (1984) 408 pages.

"This hardback is small in size but packed full of content: Brief summaries of every book of the bible, cultural, archaeological and historical info, word definitions, pictures, maps and charts." Worth checking!

[Eerdmans' family encyclopedia of the Bible](#) (1978) 344 pages

[Eerdmans' handbook to the Bible](#) (1983) 688 pages

[Tyndale handbook of Bible charts & maps](#) by Wilson, Neil

[Bible handbook and A-Z bible encyclopedia](#)

[International children's Bible field guide : answering kids' questions from Genesis to Revelation](#) by Richards, Larry

[The illustrated guide to Bible customs & curiosities](#) by Knight, George W. (George William),

[Today's handbook of Bible times & customs](#) by Coleman, William L

[The Shaw pocket Bible handbook](#) - Editor - Walter Elwell (1984) 408 pages.

"This hardback is small in size but packed full of content: Brief summaries of every book of the bible, cultural, archaeological and historical info, word definitions, pictures, maps and charts." Worth checking!

[Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament \(Volume 2 - Isaiah - Malachi\)](#) by Unger, Merrill Frederick, 1909- (1981) 972 pages.

[Zondervan illustrated Bible backgrounds commentary](#) - New Testament - 552 pages. (2002) [See user reviews](#).

[The new Unger's Bible dictionary](#) by Unger, Merrill Frederick, 1909-

[Survey of the Bible : introductory insights, background studies, book-by- book survey](#)by Unger, Merrill Frederick

[The parallel New Testament and Unger's Bible handbook : produced for Moody monthly](#) by Unger, Merrill (1975) 744 pages [4 ratings](#)

[The Hodder Bible handbook](#) by Unger, Merrill

[Nelson's expository dictionary of the Old Testament](#) by Unger, Merrill

[Kregel Bible handbook : a full-color guide to every book of the Bible](#)by Kerr, William [3 ratings](#)

[The new encyclopedia of Christian quotations](#) by Water, Mark

[Zondervan handbook to the Bible](#)

PRECEPT MINISTRIES

Inductive Study on Esther

“A Man, A Woman Who Lives for the Good of God's People”

A Miraculous Deliverance of the Jews!

- [First Lesson - Download Lesson 1 of 4](#) - [\(See Inductive Bible study\)](#)

Key words (note) in Esther: Which of these "keys" is the major "key word" (Clue: occurs 51x)

Anger/angry - Esther 1:12, 18, 2:1, 2:21, 5:9, 7:7, 7:10

Banquet/feast - Esther 1:3, 1:5, 1:9, 2:18, 5:4, 5:5, 5:6, 5:8, 5:12, 5:14, 6:14, 7:2, 8:17, 9:17, 9:18, 9:19,9:22

Jew/Jews - Esther 2:5; 3:4, 6, 10, 13; 4:3, 7, 13, 14, 16; 5:13; 6:10, 13; 8:1, 3, 5, 7,8,9, 11, 13, 16,17; 9:1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 10:3;

Edict/decreed - Esther 1:19, 1:20, 2:1, 2:8, 3:9, 3:14, 3:15, 4:3, 4:8, 8:8, 8:13, 8:14, 8:17, 9:1, 9:13, 9:14

Fast - Esther 4:3, 16, 9:31

Destroy/destruction - Esther 3:6, 3:9, 3:13, 4:7, 4:8, 7:4 8:5 8:6 8:11 9:5 9:6 9:12 9:24

Day, Month, Year - Esther 1:3 2:16 3:7 1:1 1:2 1:4 1:5 1:10 1:18 2:11 2:12 2:16 2:21 3:7 3:12 3:13 3:14 4:11 4:16 5:1 5:4 5:9 7:2 8:1 8:9 8:12 8:13 9:1 9:11 9:15 9:17 9:18 9:19 9:21 9:22 9:26 9:27 9:28 9:31 ([See Jewish Calendar](#))

Pur/Purim - See discussion of [pur/Purim](#) - Esther 3:7 9:24 9:26 **See also** - [Purim - Wikipedia](#) and [Judaism 101 Purim with interesting discussion of Esther from a Jewish perspective](#). In short, the Feast of Purim is an annual reminder of God's **faithfulness** on behalf of His people.

- [Purim - The 1901 Jewish Encyclopedia](#)
- [Purim - 1911 Encyclopedia Britannica](#)
- [Purim - Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible](#)
- American Tract Society [Purim](#)
- Easton's Bible Dictionary [Pur, Purim](#)
- Fausset Bible Dictionary [Purim](#)
- Holman Bible Dictionary [Purim](#)
- Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible [Purim](#)
- Hastings' Dictionary of the NT [Purim](#)
- Hawker's Poor Man's Dictionary [Purim](#)
- 1911 Encyclopedia Britannica [Purim](#)
- Kitto Biblical Cyclopedia [Purim](#)
- McClintock and Strong's Bible Encyclopedia [Purim](#)
- The Jewish Encyclopedia [Purim](#)

[Ahasuerus \(note\)](#) - The Persian King - the same as Xerxes = name used in the NIV

[Mordecai \(note\)](#) - His name means - Little man; bitter bruising; bitterly reduced. Bitterness of my oppression. "A picture of the humanity of Jesus while acting as our kinsman Redeemer (Esther 2:4-7; 10:1-3)" (The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names. Smith & Cornwall)

- American Tract Society [Mordecai](#)
- Bridgeway Bible Dictionary [Mordecai](#)
- Easton's Bible Dictionary [Mordecai](#)
- Fausset Bible Dictionary [Mordecai](#)
- Holman Bible Dictionary [Mordecai](#)
- Hitchcock Bible Names [Mordecai](#)
- Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible [Mordecai](#)
- Morrish Bible Dictionary [Mordecai](#)
- Hawker's Poor Man's Dictionary [Mordecai](#)
- People's Dictionary of the Bible [Mordecai](#)
- Watson's Theological Dictionary [Mordecai](#)
- International Standard Bible Encyclopedia [Mordecai](#)
- Kitto Biblical Cyclopedia [Mordecai](#)
- 1901 Jewish Encyclopedia [Mordecai](#)

[Haman \(note\)](#) - His name means Alone; solitary. Well disposed. A rioter. The rager; their tumult. (Smith & Cornwall)

- American Tract Society [Haman](#)
- Easton's Bible Dictionary [Haman](#)
- Fausset Bible Dictionary [Haman](#)
- Holman Bible Dictionary [Haman](#)
- Hitchcock Bible Names [Haman](#)
- Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible [Haman](#)
- Morrish Bible Dictionary [Haman](#)
- People's Dictionary of the Bible [Haman](#)
- Watson's Theological Dictionary [Haman](#)
- International Standard Bible Encyclopedia [Haman](#)
- Kitto Biblical Cyclopedia [Haman](#)
- McClintock and Strong's Bible Encyclopedia [Haman](#)
- The Nuttall Encyclopedia [Haman](#)
- The Jewish Encyclopedia [Haman the Agagite](#)

[Esther \(note\)](#) and [Ruth \(see resources\)](#) are the only books of the Bible centered around a woman. [Esther](#) is unique in that it is the only book of Scripture that does not mention God, although clearly God's providential hand of protection of His people pervades the pages. Esther's Hebrew name was *Hadassah*, "myrtle" (Es 2:7), but her Persian name *Ester* was derived from the Persian word for "star" (*stara*). The Greek title for this book is *Esther* (Latin = *Hester*). Note that the dramatic events of the book of Esther take place between the events of Ezra 6 and Ezra 7, between the first return led by Zerubbabel and the second return led by Ezra.

[Esther Kim](#), a "real life Esther" is the author of the fascinating book entitled ["If I Perish" \(Amazon - 4.5/5 Stars - Read some of the Reader Reviews\)](#) based on the famous verse Esther 4:16.

ALBERT BARNES Commentary on Esther

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JOSEPH BENSON Commentary on Esther

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BRIAN BELL Sermon Notes Book of Esther

- Esther Intro [God's Perfect Work, through Imperfect People](#)
- Esther 001 [Operation Camouflage](#)
- Esther 2 [Orphan to 1st Lady](#)
- Esther 3 [Another Link in the Chain](#)
- Esther 4 [Right Place, Right Time](#)
- Esther 5 [Eaten alive by 1 Termite](#)
- Esther 6 [Peripety](#)
- Esther 7 [Poetic Justice](#)
- Esther 9,10 [Tables Turned, Tables Spread, Table Manners](#)

ADAM CLARKE Commentary on Esther

(1760-1832) Clarke was Methodist, Wesleyan, [Arminian](#), (e.g., Clarke "suggested that although God can know all future events, he chooses not to know some events beforehand" Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible, page 808). He did not always interpret Scripture literally and so was amillennial (he interpreted Revelation as a Historicist) which led him to interpret the church as fulfilling many OT promises to Israel. Influential in development of doctrine of entire sanctification. Affirmed the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, but held a belief of "plenary dynamic inspiration" (idea of every thought inspired), thus falling short of "plenary verbal inspiration" (every single word inspired) (Bib. Sacra: Vol 125, p 163, 1968). In summary, a useful, respected commentary but as with all these resources you are advised to "Be a Berean!"

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- [Esther 10 Commentary](#)

WALTER ADENEY

Commentary on Esther

The Expositor's Bible

Warren W. Wiersbe - If you can locate the six-volume edition of the Expositor's Bible, buy it immediately! It takes up less space than the original fifty-volume set, and not everything in the original set is worth owning. Samuel H. Kellogg on Leviticus is a classic; so is Alexander Maclaren on the Psalms and on Colossians. (A Basic Library for Bible Students)

Cyril J. Barber - This set, originally published in 1903, contains expositions by both conservative and liberal theologians. The most important works are by Dod (Genesis), Chadwick (Exodus and Mark), Kellogg (Leviticus), **Blaikie** (Joshua, I and II Samuel), Adeney (Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther), Maclaren (Psalms), Moule (Romans), Findlay (Galatians and Ephesians), Plummer (Pastoral Epistles and the Epistles of James and Jude), and Milligan (Revelation.) (The Minister's Library)

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- [Images - Esther Part 2](#)
- [Images - Esther Part 3](#)

BIBLE MAPS AND TIMELINES Related to Esther

Esther Takes place over ~ 483-473BC (Takes place between Ezra 6 and Ezra 7)

- [Timeline of Division of the Kingdom to close of OT History](#)
- [Timeline from the Creation to the Fourth Century A.D.](#)
- [Timeline from 499-450BC \(Esther written about 465BC\)](#)
- [Map of Susa/Shushan](#) (See also [Susa - Dictionary article](#))
- [Map of Susa/Shushan](#)
- [Kings & Events of Babylonian, Persian, Greek Dynasties](#)
- [Brief History of Powers of Mesopotamia from 13554BC - Ge 10 to 165BC Seleucid/Ptolemies](#)
- [Chart of entire OT on One Page](#)
- [Timeline of the Post-Exilic Period](#)

The Babylonian Exile

- [Judah during the Exile](#) — [The Kingdom of Judah](#) — [Exile: Palestine in the Post-Exilic Period](#) — [Jewish Exiles in Babylon](#) — [Jewish Refugees in Egypt](#)

The Persian Period

- [World Powers of the 6th century BCE](#) — [The Conquests of Cyrus the Great](#) — [The Persian Empire](#) — [The Return of the Jewish Exiles to Judah](#) — [Judah in the 5th century BCE](#) — [Palestine after the Exile](#)

The Hellenistic Period

- [Alexander the Great's Empire](#) — [The Division of Alexander's Empire ca. 275 BCE](#) — [Palestine under the Ptolemies](#) — [The Seleucid Empire and Antiochus III](#) — [Campaigns of Antiochus IV against Egypt](#) — [The Maccabees in 168 BCE](#) — [Selected Events in the Maccabean Revolt](#) — [Jewish Expansion under the Hasmonean Dynasty](#) — [Pompey's Campaign against Jerusalem](#)

BIBLE.ORG Resources Related to Esther

Search for any Scripture reference on Bible.org...

For best results, **be as specific as possible**.

The old functionality to **search by book**, still exists. Just type in the book only (like: John or Gen. standard abbreviations are accepted) and you will get the same functionality as the old site.

You can also **search by chapter** like: John 1 or Gen. 2

You can also search by simple or complex references like: James 1:2 or Hebrews 1:1-3,6; 5:4

W. BURROWS Preacher's Homiletical Commentary Book of Esther

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on the Whole Bible

Commentary on Esther

Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset and David Brown. Published 1871

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COMMENTARY CRITICAL AND EXPLANATORY

Book of Esther

Unabridged Version

Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset and David Brown. Published 1871

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W A CRISWELL
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- [Esther 1-10 The Book of Esther](#)
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A D DAVIDSON
Lectures, Expository and Practical,
on the Book of Esther
1859

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- [Introduction -](#)
- [Esther 1:1-12 - page 9](#)
- [Esther 1:13-22 - page 29](#)
- [Esther 2:1-4 - page 48](#)
- [Esther 2:5-20 - page 68](#)
- [Esther 2:21-23; 3:1-5 - page 89](#)
- [Esther 3:6-11 - page 108](#)
- [Esther 3:12-15; 4:1-9 - page 128](#)

- [Esther 4:10-17 - page 149](#)
- [Esther 5:1-8 - page 171](#)
- [Esther 5:9-14 - page 192](#)
- [Esther 6:1-14 - page 213](#)
- [Esther 7:1-10 - page 236](#)
- [Esther 8:1-14 - page 257](#)
- [Esther 8:15-17; 9:1-19 - page 278](#)
- [Esther 9:20-32; 10:1-3 - page 299](#)

DEFENDER'S STUDY BIBLE
Notes on Esther
Henry Morris

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BOB DEFFINBAUGH
Sermons on Esther

- [Introduction to Esther](#)
- [Esther 1:1-2:18 Miss Persia](#)
- [Esther 2:19-3:15 Hanging Out at the Gate](#)
- [Esther 4:1-17 Esther's Dilemma and Decision](#)
- [Esther 5:1-7:10 Sleepless in Susa](#)
- [Esther 8:1-10:3 The Feast of Purim- A Jewish Mardi Gras](#)

C J ELLICOTT, ED.
R. Sinker on Esther
Old Testament Commentary for English Readers

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Book of Esther

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GOTQUESTIONS

Book of Esther

- [Book of Esther - Bible Survey](#)
- [Why doesn't the book of Esther mention God?](#)
- [Why did Queen Vashti refuse to appear before Xerxes?](#)
- [Who was Mordecai in the Bible?](#)
- [What should we learn from the life of Esther?](#)
- [Did Esther have sex with Xerxes before they were married?](#)
- [Who was Haman the Agagite?](#)

L. M. GRANT
Commentary on the
Book of Esther

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Brief Notes from Conservative, Evangelical, Millennial Perspective

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HAWKER'S POOR MAN'S COMMENTARY
Book of Esther
Richard Hawker

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H A IRONSIDE Notes on Book of Esther (1921)

Rosscup - Though Ironside does not get into the detail of the text, he does give a practical exposition on a wider scale in popular fashion. He shows how the message is alive, and at times helps with good illustrations. (Commentaries for Biblical Expositors)

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WILLIAM KELLY
Commentary
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PAUL E. KRETZMANN
The Popular Commentary
The Book of Esther

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GEORGE LAWSON

Discourses on the Whole Book of Esther (1809)

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- [Esther 9:6-19](#)
- [Esther 9:20-32](#)
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ALEXANDER MACLAREN Sermons on Esther

- [Esther 3:1-11 The Net Spread](#)
- [Esther 4:10-17, 5:1-3 Esther's Venture](#)
- [Esther 4:14 Mordecai and Esther](#)
- [Esther 8:3-8, 15-17 The Net Broken](#)

J VERNON MCGEE Commentary on Esther Thru the Bible Mp3's

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MISCELLANEOUS RESOURCES Conservative, Evangelical

JOURNALS

The Theological Journal Library on galaxie.com

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Examples of articles that mention Esther...

- [Location Of Esther's Palace Confirmed](#)
- [An Investigation of Esther As An Episode of Covenant History in a Foreign Court](#)
- [Shadow and Fulfillment in the Book of Esther](#)
- [Historicity, Genre, and Narrative Design in the Book of Esther](#)
- [Literary Conventions in the Book of Esther](#)
- [Plot Structure in the Book of Esther](#)
- [The Book Of Esther And The Palace Of Ahasuerus](#)

Articles on Esther that are free online...

- [Karen Jobes - "For Such a Time as This": A Defining Moment in Christian Ministry](#)
- [William Shea - Esther and History - 16 page article](#)
- [Edwin M. Yamauchi: The Archaeological Background of Esther](#)
- [George Little - Addition To The Sum Of Revelation, Found In The Book Of Esther](#)
- [Iain Duguid - But Did They Live Happily Ever After? The Eschatology of the Book of Esther](#)
- [Bergey, Ronald Bergey - Post-Exilic Hebrew Linguistic Developments In Esther: A Diachronic Approach](#)
- [Steven Mathewson - Guidelines for Understanding and Proclaiming Old Testament Narratives](#)

SERMONS, DEVOTIONALS, OUTLINES, etc

BEST COMMENTARIES

- [Best Commentaries on Esther - Tim Challies](#)
- [Top 5 Commentaries on the Book of Esther by Keith Mathison](#)
- [Best Commentary on Esther - Best Commentaries Reviews](#)
- [Number 1 Rated Commentary - Esther \(The NIV Application Commentary\)- Karen H. Jobes](#)
- [Number 1 Rated Commentary - Esther- An Introduction and Commentary \(Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries\)- Joyce G. Baldwin](#)

Rosscup is a bit less enamored with **Karen Jobes'** commentary writing "Jobes will not be clear to some in her view that a biblical book can have legitimate errors in historical matters for the sake of poetic license, without distorting the truth (34). She does not give evidence here to make her point clear or show that it is valid in Esther. She says that **Vashti**, **Ahasuerus** [Xerxes], **Esther** and **Haman** may not be the actual names of the people to whom the events happened (36–37) (**Ed comment:** The name Esther is used 45x in 37v in this book and to posit that this may not be her name seems a bit presumptive) . The authoress' explanation of verses in Esther offer studied help, and each section ends with worthwhile comments on ways main lessons are relevant today." (Commentaries for Biblical Expositors)

Rosscup on **Baldwin** - A frequent, respected contributor to this series (Tyndale), she presents careful research on setting, text, exegesis and related matters such as customs, with good notes. The work is evangelical, but some will think it strange that Baldwin says some details "continue to seem improbable" (p. 24). (Ibid)

Rosscup on **John Whitcomb's [Esther and the Destiny of Israel \(revised edition - new title from 1979 edition\)](#)** - "Whitcomb has written this fine 128-pp. paperback for the Everyman's Bible Commentary. He includes a helpful bibliography along with charts and time-line illustrations. The chronology of Esther is dealt with in detail. The author uses nine chapters to discuss ten chapters of Esther. He uses a verse by verse format. Whitcomb's introductory remarks are very good but regrettably brief. Throughout the volume he counters two major detractors to the historicity and canonicity of Esther (Patton, ICC, 1908; Moore, Anchor Bible, 1977). Whitcomb dates Esther prior to the palace destruction at Susa in 435 B. C. He, like others, hypothesizes that perhaps a Diasporan Jew authored this work. His comments on the difference between canonicity and theological understanding are worthy of note. Whitcomb's approach to historicity itself makes valuable reading. The author equates Ahasuerus (486–465 B. C.) with Xerxes aka. Khshayarsha. Whitcomb's work here is especially valuable for its concern for the interplay between secular and sacred history. Conclusion: Outstanding approach and treatment.—Jan Sattem (Ibid)

GREGG ALLEN

- [Survey of the Book of Esther - God's Providential Hand](#)

DON ANDERSON

- [Esther - 16 pages](#)

BRENT BARNETT

- [For Such a Time as This](#)

BIBLE FOR CHILDREN

- [Beautiful Queen Esther - Bible For Children - Colored Pictures - simple English](#)

KENNETH BOA

- [Esther - Overview - Mp3](#)

BIBLE.ORG

- [Esther Articles](#)

JIM BOMKAMP - [Click for links to studies below](#)

- "Esther 1: Introduction To The Book Of Esther / Queen Vashti Is Dethroned And Divorced"
- Esther 2-3 "King Xerxes' Attendants Convince Him To Search For A New Queen, And Esther Is Chosen As A Contestant"
- Esther 4-5 "Mordecai Convinces Esther To Intercede For The Jews Before The King"
- Esther 6-7 "The King's Sleepless Night Leads To Exaltation Of Mordecai / After Dinner Esther Is Granted Her Request And Haman Is Hanged"
- Esther 8-10 "Mordecai Is Promoted And Esther Gains The King's Permission And The Jews Destroy All Of Their Enemies"

CHABAD

- [Jewish Commentary on Esther - interesting](#)

MARK W. CHAVALAS

- [Theology of Esther in Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology](#)

COMPANION BIBLE

- [Esther Study Notes - by chapter](#)

DONALD E. CURTIS

- [Esther – Irony and Providence - well done overview](#)

MARK DEVER

- [Surprise - The Message of Esther - Overview](#)

DICTIONARY ARTICLES

- American Tract Society [Esther](#)
- Bridgeway Bible Dictionary [Esther](#)
- Easton's Bible Dictionary [Esther](#)
- Fausset Bible Dictionary [Esther](#)
- Holman Bible Dictionary [Esther](#)
- Hitchcock Bible Names [Esther](#)
- Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible [Esther](#)
- Morrish Bible Dictionary [Esther](#)
- Hawker's Poor Man's Dictionary [Esther](#)
- Whyte's Bible Characters [Esther](#)
- Watson's Theological Dictionary [Esther](#)
- American Tract Society [Esther, the Book of](#)
- Easton's Bible Dictionary [Esther, Book of](#)
- Fausset Bible Dictionary [Esther, the Book of](#)
- Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible [Esther, Book of](#)
- 1911 Encyclopedia Britannica [Esther](#)
- International Standard Bible Encyclopedia [Esther](#)
- Kitto Biblical Cyclopedia [Esther Esther book of](#)
- McClintock and Strong's Bible Encyclopedia [Esther](#)

M. DIEULAFOY

- [Book of Esther and the Palace of Ahasuerus - 28 page article](#)

DON FORTNER

- [Esther - Thru the Bible](#)
- [Esther - The Wonder of Divine Providence](#)

THE GOSPEL COALITION

- [Sermons on Esther by chapter](#)

SANDRA GLAHN SUSIE HAWKINS

- [Esther's Story](#)
- [The Setting of Esther](#)
- [Esther- Act 1](#)
- [Esther- Act 2](#)
- [Esther- The Grand Finale](#)

CHARLES HARVEY

- [Probing Moral Ambiguity: Grappling with Ethical Portraits in the Hebrew Story of Esther - interesting](#)

J. HAMPTON KEATHLEY, III

- [The Historical Books](#)

ROY HESSION AUDIO ONLY

- [Gospel in the book of Esther 1. The Doom of the People](#)
- [Gospel in the book of Esther 2. Esther at the Court for Her People](#)
- [Gospel in the book of Esther 3. Haman Hanged on His Gallows](#)
- [Gospel in the book of Esther 4. The Exaltation of Mordecai](#)
- [Gospel in the book of Esther 5. Mordecai Speaks Peace](#)

HOLMAN PUBLISHING

- [Holman Christian Standard Bible Study Bible](#) - literal translation with well done study notes, simple word study & dictionary tools that synchronize with the Scripture. Free online but you must set up an account.

DAVID HOLWICK

- [Sermons \(4\) on Esther - click OT than Esther](#)

BETHANY JENKINS

- [Esther and the Silent Sovereignty of God](#)

JACK KELLEY

- [The Book of Esther - Something Hidden - interesting work - tells story of this book from Esther's perspective](#)

STEVE KRELOFF

- [Esther Introduction](#) - Only in Mp3 but **recommended because as a Jewish believer in Messiah, Pastor Kreloff brings an interesting perspective**
- [Esther 1:1-2:8 The Promotion Of Esther](#)
- [Esther 2:19-3:6 The Plot Of Haman \(Part 1\)](#)
- [Esther 3:7-15 The Plot Of Haman \(Part 1\)](#)
- [Esther 4:1-5:14 The Preservation Of Israel \(Part 1\)](#)
- [Esther 6:1-7:10 The Preservation Of Israel \(Part 2\)](#)

- [Esther 8 The Preservation Of Israel \(Part 3\)](#)
- [Esther 9-10 e Preservation Of Israel \(Part 4\)](#)

JOHN MACARTHUR

- [Esther - Same Introductory Notes as found in the MacArthur Study Bible](#)

Outline of the Book of Esther

I. Esther Replaces Vashti (Esther 1:1–2:18)

- A. Vashti's Insubordination (Esther 1:1–22)
- B. Esther's Coronation (Esther 2:1–18)

II. Mordecai Overcomes Haman (Esther 2:19–7:10)

- A. Mordecai's Loyalty (Esther 2:19–23)
- B. Haman's Promotion and Decree (Esther 3:1–15)
- C. Esther's Intervention (Esther 4:1–5:14)
- D. Mordecai's Recognition (Esther 6:1–13)
- E. Haman's Fall (Esther 6:14–7:10)

III. Israel Survives Haman's Genocide Attempt (Esther 8:1–10:3)

- A. Esther and Mordecai's Advocacy (Esther 8:1–17)
- B. The Jews' Victory (Esther 9:1–19)
- C. Purim's Beginning (Esther 9:20–23)
- D. Mordecai's Fame (Esther 10:1–3)

Excerpt - Historical and Theological Themes - All 167 verses of Esther have ultimately been accepted as canonical, although the absence of God's name anywhere has caused some to unnecessarily doubt its authenticity. The Greek Septuagint (LXX) added an extra 107 apocryphal verses which supposedly compensated for this lack. Along with Song of Solomon, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, and Lamentations, Esther stands with the OT books of the Megilloth, or "5 scrolls." Rabbis read these books in the synagogue on 5 special occasions during the year—Esther being read at Purim (cf. Esther 9:20–32).

The historical genesis for the drama played out between Mordecai (a Benjamite descendant of Saul—Esther 2:5) and Haman (an Agagite—Esther 3:1, 10; 8:3, 5; 9:24) goes back almost 1,000 years when the Jews exited from Egypt (ca. 1445 B.C.) and were attacked by the Amalekites (Ex. 17:8–16), whose lineage began with Amalek, son of Esau (Gen. 36:12). God pronounced His curse on the Amalekites, which resulted in their total elimination as a people (Ex. 17:14; Deut. 25:17–19). Although Saul (ca. 1030 B.C.) received orders to kill all the Amalekites, including their king Agag (1 Sam. 15:2, 3), he disobeyed (1 Sam. 15:7–9) and incurred God's displeasure (1 Sam. 15:11, 26; 28:18). Samuel finally hacked Agag into pieces (1 Sam. 15:32, 33). Because of his lineage from Agag, Haman carried deep hostility toward the Jews.

The time of Esther arrived 550 years after the death of Agag, but in spite of such passage of time, neither Haman the Agagite nor Mordecai the Benjamite had forgotten the tribal feud that still smoldered in their souls. This explains why Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman (Esther 3:2, 3) and why Haman so viciously attempted to exterminate the Jewish race (Esther 3:5, 6, 13). As expected, God's prophecy to extinguish the Amalekites (Ex. 17:14; Deut. 25:17–19) and God's promise to preserve the Jews (Gen. 17:1–8) prevailed.

Because of God's faithfulness to save His people, the festival of Purim (named after the Akkadian word for "lot"—Esther 3:7; 9:26), an annual, two day holiday of feasting, rejoicing, sending food to one another, and giving gifts to the poor (Esther 9:21, 22), was decreed to be celebrated in every generation, by every family, in every province and city (Esther 9:27, 28). Esther later added a new feature of fasting with lamentation (Esther 9:31). Purim is not biblically mentioned again, although it has been celebrated throughout the centuries in Israel. Esther could be compared to a chess game. God and Satan (as invisible players) moved real kings, queens, and nobles. When Satan put Haman into place, it was as if he announced "Check." God then positioned Esther and Mordecai in order to put Satan into "Checkmate!" Ever since the fall of man (Gen. 3:1–19), Satan has attempted to spiritually sever God's relationship with His human creation and disrupt God's covenant promises with Israel. For example, Christ's line through the tribe of

Judah had been murderously reduced to Joash alone, who was rescued and preserved (2 Chr. 22:10–12). Later, Herod slaughtered the infants of Bethlehem, thinking Christ was among them (Matt. 2:16). Satan tempted Christ to denounce God and worship him (Matt. 4:9). Peter, at Satan's insistence, tried to block Christ's journey to Calvary (Matt. 16:22). Finally, Satan entered into Judas who then betrayed Christ to the Jews and Romans (Luke 22:3–6). While God was not mentioned in Esther, He was everywhere apparent as the One who opposed and foiled Satan's diabolical schemes by providential intervention.

In Esther, all of God's unconditional covenant promises to Abraham (Gen. 17:1–8) and to David (2 Sam. 7:8–16) were jeopardized. However, God's love for Israel is nowhere more apparent than in this dramatic rescue of His people from pending elimination. "Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep" (Ps. 121:4).

JOHN MACARTHUR

- [Esther- For Such a Time As This - sermon](#)

DAVID MALICK

- [An Introduction to the Book of Esther](#)
- [Selected Bibliography of the Book of Esther](#)
- [Argument of the Book of Esther](#)

J VERNON MCGEE

- [Esther & Job Introductory Notes](#)

BILL MCRAE

- [Esther - Overview - Mp3](#)

MONERGISM

- [Esther Mp3 Series](#)

G. CAMPBELL MORGAN

- [Esther Overview](#)

WILLIAM W. ORR

- [Keys to Esther](#)

MYER PEARLMAN

- [Esther - Through the Bible Book by Book](#)

JOHN PIPER

- [John Piper's poem - Esther](#)

WIL POUNDS

- [Ezra & Nehemiah: Restoration & Reform](#)
- [Chronology of History of Israel](#)

PRECEPTAUSTIN

- The Providence of God

LEONARD RAVENHILL

- [Book of Esther](#)

REFORMATION STUDY BIBLE

- [Esther 1:1](#)
- [Esther 1:2](#)
- [Esther 1:3](#)
- [Esther 1:4–7](#)
- [Esther 1:9](#)
- [Esther 1:12](#)
- [Esther 1:13–14](#)
- [Esther 1:19](#)
- [Esther 1:21–22](#)
- [Esther 2:1](#)
- [Esther 2:5](#)
- [Esther 2:7](#)
- [Esther 2:9](#)
- [Esther 2:12](#)
- [Esther 2:18](#)
- [Esther 2:19](#)
- [Esther 2:23](#)
- [Esther 3:1](#)
- [Esther 3:2](#)
- [Esther 3:7](#)
- [Esther 3:9](#)
- [Esther 3:10](#)
- [Esther 3:12–14](#)
- [Esther 3:13](#)
- [Esther 4:1–3](#)
- [Esther 4:4](#)
- [Esther 4:5](#)
- [Esther 4:8](#)
- [Esther 4:12–14](#)
- [Esther 4:16](#)
- [Esther 5:1–2](#)
- [Esther 5:3](#)
- [Esther 6:6–9](#)
- [Esther 6:13](#)
- [Esther 6:14](#)
- [Esther 7:3](#)
- [Esther 7:4](#)
- [Esther 7:8](#)
- [Esther 8:1](#)
- [Esther 8:7–8](#)
- [Esther 8:9–14](#)
- [Esther 8:17](#)
- [Esther 9:1](#)
- [Esther 9:2](#)
- [Esther 9:5](#)
- [Esther 9:12–15](#)
- [Esther 9:14](#)
- [Esther 9:16–17](#)
- [Esther 9:16](#)
- [Esther 9:19](#)
- [Esther 9:20–32](#)
- [Esther 9:20](#)
- [Esther 9:24–25](#)

- [Esther 9:29–32](#)
- [Esther 10](#)
- [Esther 10:3](#)

AREND REMMERS

- [The Book of Esther \(overview\)](#)

DON ROBINSON

- [Study of the Book of Esther](#)

A H SAYCE

- [An Introduction to the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther](#)

JOHN SCHULTZ

- [Esther Commentary - 43 pages](#)

SERMONCENTRAL

- [Esther Sermons - search list of 252 sermons](#)

CHUCK SMITH

- [For Such A Time](#)

JAMES STALKER

- [Public Spirit \(alludes to Esther\)](#)

RAY STEDMAN

- [Esther - A Queen Under Control](#)
- [The Way Back: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther - Transcript](#) or [Mp3](#)

AMY STEEDMAN

- [Children's Bible Stories](#)

CHARLES SWINDOLL

- [Book of Esther Overview - Insight for Living Ministries - click for book chart at bottom of page](#)

Excerpt - What's the big idea? While the primary purpose of the book of Esther was to relate the dramatic origins of the feast of Purim, a greater theme shines through the story. The sovereignty and faithfulness of God permeate each scene. Nothing is truly coincidental, the book of Esther says to us. God's sovereignty is best summarized in Mordecai's exhortation to Esther: "And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14).

When events seemed out of control to Esther and Mordecai, when the king dictated ruin for their people, when evil was poised to triumph . . . God was at work. He worked through their dark days (Esther was taken to the harem [Esther 2:1–16]), their faithful obedience (Esther risked her life before the king [Esther 5:1–3]), and their victories (Esther revealed Haman's plot and the Jews' destruction of their enemies [7–9]). This message is clear: God is sovereign even when life doesn't make sense.

God is also the great Promise Keeper. Mordecai said to Esther: "If you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish" (Esther

4:14). Mordecai's words reflected his faith that God would honor His eternal covenant with Abraham and David.

How do I apply this? - Life can be hard. Difficult times happen, and pain cannot be avoided. When life doesn't make sense, do you turn to God or away from Him? Let the book of Esther encourage you that God is always present. Jesus called us "friends" (John 15:15), and the Spirit is our "Helper" (Jn 14:26). Trust and obey, as Esther did. And watch God silently weave all events for His glory . . . and for our good.

MAJOR IAN THOMAS

- [If I Perish I Perish-01 Ministry From Esther](#)
- [If I Perish I Perish-02 Ministry From Esther](#)
- [If I Perish I Perish-03 Ministry From Esther](#)

GEOFF THOMAS

- [1:1-2 The Providence of God in the land of Persia](#)
- [2:1-3 Sex and Marriage in Persia](#)
- [2:21-3:2 The Humbling of the People of God](#)
- [4:12-14 The Deliverance of God's People](#)
- [7:1-14 The Tables are Turned](#)

JAMES VAN DINE

- [Analysis of Esther](#)

STEVE WAGERS

- [Esther - No Time Like The Right Time](#)

COMMENTARIES ESTHER

J G BELLET

- [Chapter 8 - Esther 1-2](#)
- [Chapter 9 - Esther 3](#)
- [Chapter 10 - Esther 4 - 5](#)
- Chapter 11 - Esther 6 - 7
- [Chapter 12 - Esther 8-10](#)
- [Chapter 13 - Conclusion](#)

ROBERT BRYCE

- [Esther: God is in Control - Easy English Commentary](#)

PAULUS CASSEL

- [An Explanatory Commentary on Esther \(1888\)](#)

COLLEGE PRESS

- [Esther Commentary](#) - scroll down to page 273 for 133 page commentary on Esther - includes maps - Be a Berean: Church of Christ perspective

ALEXANDER D DAVIDSON

- [Lectures, Expository and Practical on the Book of Esther \(1859\)](#)

J R DUMMELOW, ED.

- [Esther in "A Commentary on the Holy Bible"](#) - brief comments

PAUL S FERGUSON

- [God in the Shadows - The Life of Esther - Recommended](#)

This 71 page modern (2011) commentary is highly recommended and begins with a discussion of the Doctrine of God's Providence followed by practical application. Then the author gives you a chapter by chapter (often verse by verse) exposition. Highly recommended! (For verse by verse analysis see my work here)

L M GRANT

Introduction	Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3
Chapter 4	Chapter 5	Chapter 6	Chapter 7
Chapter 8	Chapter 9	Chapter 10	

DANIEL HILL

- [Esther - from Grace Notes Online Bible Teaching - 55 pages - well done](#)

JOHN HUGHES

- [Esther and Her People - A Practical Exposition in 10 Lectures \(1842\)](#)

GARY KUKIS

- [Commentary on Esther - 35 pages](#)

JOHN LOWRIE

- [Esther and Her Times - a series of 12 lectures \(1859\)](#)

THOMAS M'CRIE

- [Lectures on the Book of Esther: \(1838\)](#)
- [Esther 1:1-9](#)
- [Esther 1:10-22](#)
- [Esther 2:5-11, 15-20](#)
- [Esther 2:21-23, 3:1-6](#)
- [Esther 3:6-15](#)
- [Esther 4:1-12](#)
- [Esther 4:13-17](#)
- [Esther 4:15-17; 5:1-8](#)
- [Esther 5:9-14](#)
- [Esther 6:1-11](#)
- [Esther 6:12-14](#)
- [Esther 7:1-6](#)
- [Esther 7:7-10](#)
- [Esther 8:1-5](#)
- [Esther 8:7-17](#)
- [Esther 9:1-16](#)
- [Esther 9:17-32](#)
- [Esther 10](#)

WILLIAM NEWELL

- [Esther - Lessons from Union Bible College - go to Page 303](#) - brief but interesting

DAVID PRATTE

- [Commentary on Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther - 188 pages](#)

BOB UTLEY

- [Esther Commentary](#)

MOODY BIBLE

- [Devotional Commentary on the Book of Esther chapter by chapter - Recommended](#)

ESTHER 1

PRECEPTAUSTIN.ORG

- [Esther 1-2 Commentary - Verse by Verse](#)

WILLIAM MACDONALD

- [Esther 1:1 Audio of talk to missions conference](#)

SERMON BIBLE COMMENTARY

- [Esther 1:1-3 and Esther 1:1-9 Commentary](#)

BRIAN BILL

- [Esther 1-10 Maximizing Ministry Potential](#)

JOHN KITTO

- [Esther 1:11 The Persian Court \(In "Daily Bible Illustrations\)](#)

RAY STEDMAN

- [Esther 1, 2 - A Pair of Queens](#)

JAMES FREEMAN

- [Esther 1:5 The Court of the House - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)
- [Esther 1:6 Curtains/Couches - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)
- [Esther 1:8 Drinking Customs - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)
- [Esther 1:9 Feasts for the Women - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)
- [Esther 1:10 Chamberlains - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)

J G BELLET

- [Esther 1-2: Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times](#)
- **Table of Contents of** [Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times](#)

ESTHER 2

PRECEPTAUSTIN.ORG

- [Esther 1-2 Commentary - Verse by Verse](#)

RAY STEDMAN

- [Esther 1, 2 - A Pair of Queens](#)

ROBERT NEIGHBOUR

- [Esther 2:17-23 Commentary -Wells of Living Water](#)

J G BELLET

- [Esther 1-2: Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times](#)
[Table of Contents of Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times](#)

TIM KELLER

- [Esther 2:5-10 The Silent Sovereignty of God](#) **Audio**

JAMES FREEMAN

- [Esther 2:13 The Royal Harem - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)
- [Esther 2:16 Tebeth- Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)
- [Esther 2:17 The Persian Queen - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)

DAVID STRAIN

- [Esther 2:1-18 Beauty and the Beast](#)

ESTHER 3

DAVID STRAIN

- [Esther 2:19-3:15 The Plot Thickens](#)

RAY STEDMAN

- [Esther 3 The Struggle for Power](#)

JIM TWAMLEY

- [Esther 3:1-15 Lessons from Esther](#)

J R MILLER

- [Esther 3-4 - Haman's Plot Against the Jews](#)

TIM KELLER

- [Esther 3:1 The Man the King Delights to Honor](#) **Audio**

J G BELLET

- [Esther 3: Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times](#)
- **Table of Contents of** [Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times](#)

J R MILLER

- [Esther 3-4 Haman's Plot Against the Jews - Devotional](#)

JOHN KITTO

- [Esther 3-10 Providence \(In "Daily Bible Illustrations\)](#)

ESTHER 4

RAY STEDMAN

- [Esther 4 Good Grief](#)

DAVID STRAIN

- [Esther 4:1-17 For Such A Time As This](#)

WILLIAM MACDONALD

- [Esther 4 Audio of talk to missions conference](#)

J R MILLER

- [Esther 4:8-10 Hathach - Devotional](#)

JAMES FREEMAN

- [Esther 4:11 Etiquette of the Persian Court - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)

RAY PRITCHARD

- [Esther 4 Marching Off the Map](#)
- [Esther 4:12-16 Overcoming Fear of the Future](#)
- [Esther 4:14 For Such A Time As This](#)

C H SPURGEON

- [Esther 4:13.1 4- Esther's Exaltation](#)

T DE WITT TALMAGE

- [Esther 4:14- The Day We Live In](#)

CHARLES STALKER

- [Esther 4:15-16 Sacrifice](#)

J G BELLET

- [Esther 4-5: Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times](#)

JAMES HASTINGS

- [Esther 4:14 The Strength of Joy - 14 pages! \(Great Texts of the Bible\)](#)

J C PHILPOT

- [Esther 4:16 Devotional \(Goto April 15 entry\)](#)

ESTHER 5

RAY STEDMAN

- [Esther 5 Soul and Spirit](#)

WILLIAM MACDONALD

- [Esther 5 Audio of talk to missions conference](#)

DAVID STRAIN

- [Esther 5:1-14 Gallows Humor](#)

JAMES FREEMAN

- [Esther 5:12 Feasting with the King - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)

J G BELLET

- [Esther 4-5: Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times](#)

JOHN KITTO

- [Esther 3-10 Providence \(In "Daily Bible Illustrations\)](#)

ESTHER 6

RAY STEDMAN

- [Esther 6 The Price of Survival](#)

SERMON BIBLE COMMENTARY

- [Esther 6:1 Commentary](#)

JAMES FREEMAN

- [Esther 6:8 Royal Honors Given to a Subject - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)

J G BELLET

- [Esther 6-7: Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times](#)

DAVID STRAIN

- [Esther 6:1-11 The Man Who the King Delights to Honor](#)
- [Esther 6:14-7:10 The Big Reveal](#)

JOHN KITTO

- [Esther 3-10 Providence \(In "Daily Bible Illustrations\)](#)

ESTHER 7

RAY STEDMAN

- [Esther 7 Haman's Last Supper](#)

J G BELLET

- [Esther 6-7: Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times](#)

JAMES FREEMAN

- [Esther 7:7 Sign of Royal Displeasure - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)
- [Esther 7:8 The Face Covered - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)

JOHN KITTO

- [Esther 3-10 Providence \(In "Daily Bible Illustrations\)](#)

ESTHER 8

J R MILLER

- [Esther 8 Esther Pleading for Her People \(Scroll down to Esther 8\)](#)

J R MILLER

- [Esther 8 - Esther Pleading for Her People](#)

RAY STEDMAN

- [Esther 8 The Law of the Spirit](#)

DAVID STRAIN

- [Esther 8:1-17 Eucatastrophe!](#)

DON FORTNER

- [Esther 8:1-2, 9:1-4 Two Pillows for My Soul](#)

WILLIAM MACDONALD

- [Esther 8:7 Audio of talk to missions conference](#)

JAMES FREEMAN

- [Esther 8:9 Sivan - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)

J G BELLET

- [Esther 8-10: Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times](#)

ESTHER 9

C H SPURGEON

- [Esther 9:1- Providence - As Seen in the Book of Esther](#)

RAY STEDMAN

- [Esther 9:1-16 The Sweet Taste of Victory](#)
- [Esther 9:17-10:3 A Day to Remember](#)

DAVID STRAIN

- [Esther 9:1-10:3 Holy War](#)

JAMES FREEMAN

- [Esther 9:26 The Feast of Purim - Handbook of Bible Manners & Customs](#)

J G BELLET

- [Esther 8-10: Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times](#)

ALFRED EDERSHEIM

- [The Temple--It's Ministry and Services - Chapter 17 - scroll down for Feast of Purim](#)
- Table of Contents of [The Temple--Its Ministry and Services](#)

JOHN KITTO

- [Esther 3-10 Providence \(In "Daily Bible Illustrations\)](#)

ESTHER 10

RAY STEDMAN

- [Esther 9:17-10:3 A Day to Remember](#)

C H SPURGEON

- Esther 10:3 Seeking the wealth of his people

J G BELLET

- [Esther 8-10: Witnesses for God In Dark and Evil Times](#)
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JOHN KITTO

- [Esther 3-10 Providence \(In "Daily Bible Illustrations\)](#)

G CAMPBELL MORGAN

Living Messages of the Books of the Bible

- [Click for Excellent Overview of Esther](#)
- See also - G Campbell Morgan's [Esther in the Analyzed Bible](#)

Through he had no formal training for the ministry, G. Campbell's devotion to studying of the Bible made him one of the leading Bible teachers in his day. His reputation as preacher and Bible expositor grew throughout England and spread to the United States. This commentary is the culmination of his study of God's Word.

THE MESSAGE OF ESTHER

A. THE PERMANENT VALUE

GOD acting in Providence.

I. The Method

- i. Hidden but Active.
 - a. Ruling to Issues (Esther 10:3.)
 - b. Using the Trivialities.
 1. Before the Peril.
 2. In the midst of the Peril.
- ii. Inclusive. An all-pervading Atmosphere.
 - a. The Individuals.
 - b. The Events.

II. The Principles

- i. Perfect Knowledge.
- ii. Undeviating Righteousness.
- iii. Absolute Power.

III. The Issues

- i. To those recognizing. Confidence and Courage.
- ii. To those in Rebellion, Panic and Punishment.

B. THE LIVING MESSAGE

I. The Truth

- i. GOD is.
- ii. GOD acts in Providence.
- iii. GOD is touching Life at every Point.

II. The Application

- i. Reckon with Him.
- ii. Trust Him.

iii. Act with Him.

Morgan - "There are peculiarities in this story which have raised doubts as to whether it ought to have any place in the canon of Scripture. (1) the name of GOD is never mentioned. (2) there is found no reference to the Hebrew religion. (3) the temple never appears. (4) no ceremonial of the Hebrew worship is referred to. (5) no requirement of the law is named from beginning to end." ([Click full message](#))

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NET BIBLE NOTES

Esther Commentary Notes

Comment: More Technical notes but you will often discover some very helpful insights. The links below open to the NET Bible which is synchronized with the NET Notes, Constable's Commentary and relevant articles (click the tab labeled "Articles") on the Bible.org website. Very helpful!

[*Entire Book with Notes on Pdf*](#)

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- [Esther 7-10 Reprisals](#)

L B PATON The International Critical Commentary 1908

- ([Alternative Source](#))

Rosscup: Though old, this still is a rich larder of information on details of word meaning, exegesis, history, etc. It is liberal in perspective but contributes much help **if gleaned wisely**. (Commentaries for Biblical Expositors)

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