



ESTHER

A STORY OF GOD'S DELIVERANCE

KINGSTON COMMUNITY
CHURCH

**And who knows but that you have come to
your royal position for such a time as this?**

Esther 4:14



KINGSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

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The big idea.

The book of Esther asks us to trust in God's providence even when we can't see it working. That requires a posture of hope to trust God's commitment to redeem his good world and overcome evil.

01

Esther 1 - 2

02

Esther 3 - 4

03

Esther 5 - 7

04

Esther 8 - 9

OUTLINE

- I. One Queen's Demise, Another's Rise (1:1–2:23)
 - A. Royal Parties and the Removal of Vashti (1:1–22)
 - B. The Search for a Queen and Esther's Rise (2:1–23)
- II. Haman's Plot Against the Jews (3:1–9:19)
 - A. Haman Plans to Destroy the Jews (3:1–15)
 - B. Mordecai Urges Esther to Intercede with the King (4:1–17)
 - C. Esther's First Banquet (5:1–14)
 - D. Haman Goes before the King (6:1–13)
 - E. Haman's Demise (6:14–7:10)
 - F. A Counter Decree (8:1–17)
 - G. The Jews Overcome their Enemies (9:1–19)
- III. Inauguration of Purim (9:20–10:3)
 - A. Formalizing the Celebration (9:20–32)
 - B. Commendation of Mordecai (10:1–3)

ESTHER

The Book of Esther tells how God saves His people through courage, wisdom, and unexpected turns of events. In the Persian Empire under King Xerxes I, a Jewish woman named Esther becomes queen after Queen Vashti is removed, though she keeps her Jewish identity secret on the advice of her cousin Mordecai. When a powerful official named Haman becomes furious that Mordecai will not bow to him, he plots to destroy all the Jews in the empire and convinces the king to approve the plan. Faced with the possible destruction of her people, Esther bravely risks her life by approaching the king without being summoned. Through a series of carefully planned banquets, she reveals Haman's evil scheme. The king responds in anger, Haman is executed, and a new decree allows the Jews to defend themselves. They are delivered from their enemies, and their rescue is remembered in the festival of Purim. Even though God's name is never mentioned, the story shows His hidden guidance and faithfulness.

RESOURCES

THE BIBLE PROJECT - ESTHER

Videos · Old Testament Overviews



THE GOSPEL COALITION - COMMENTARY

Esther

A COMMENTARY BY
David G. Firth

Invitation to Esther

Purpose

Key Verse

Outline

One Queen's Demise, Another's Rise (1:1-2:23)

Royal Parties and the Removal of Vashti (1:1-2:2)

The Search for a Queen and Esther's Rise (2:1-23)

Haman's Plot Against the Jews (3:1-9:19)

Haman Plans to Destroy the Jews (3:1-15)

Mordecai Urges Esther to Intercede with the King (4:1-17)

Esther's First Banquet (5:1-14)

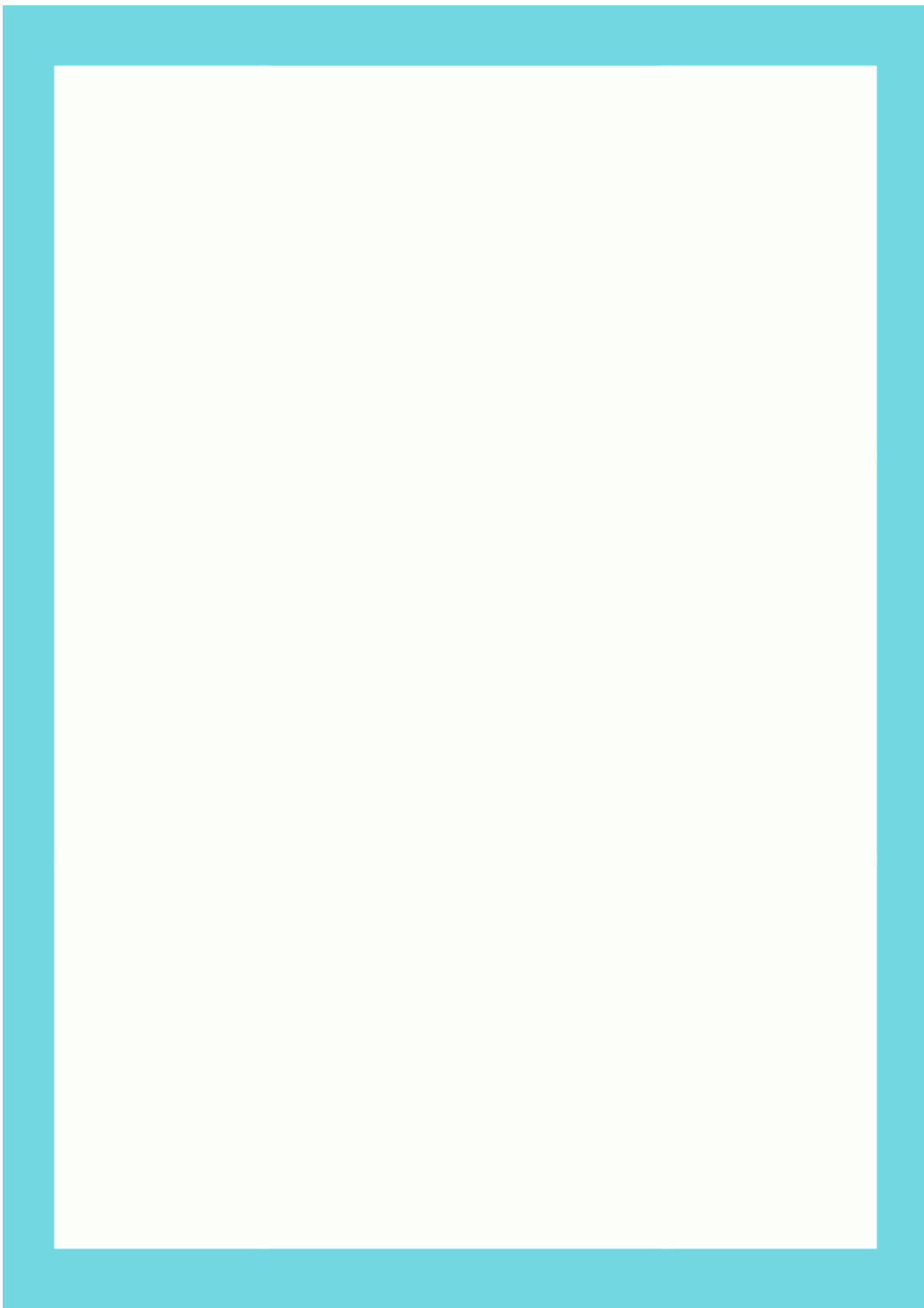
Haman Goes before the King (6:1-13)

Haman's Demise (7:1-10)

Invitation to Esther

In the Hebrew Bible, Esther is one of five "scrolls" (with Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs and Lamentations) which are read at certain festivals. The connection of some with the relevant festival is not always clear, but Esther's association with Purim is easily explained. This book tells the story which provides the foundation for the celebration, explaining the festival's origins and name ([Esth 9:23-32](#)). The most basic purpose of the book is therefore to justify celebration of a festival not mentioned in the Pentateuch. Yet, the book cannot be reduced to this, not least because the explanation for the festival only occurs in the story's closing parts, in the record of various letters sent to the Jews in the Persian empire. Purim provides one reason for the book, but it is far from the only one.

Any consideration of Esther must also reflect on how it is distinct from the rest of the Old Testament. Perhaps the best known point is that the book of Esther is the only book in the Old Testament which



01

Esther 1 - 2



Esther 1 - 2

What stood out to you from the message ?

What do the events in the king's court reveal about human power, pride, and control?

Even though God isn't named, where can you see His hidden hand at work in these chapters?

How does Esther's willingness to sacrifice her position in the palace point forward to Christ?

Have you ever been in a situation that didn't make sense at the time, but later you saw how God used it?

02

Esther 3 - 4

02

Esther 3 - 4

What stood out to you from the message?

What starts to unfold between Haman and the Jewish people?

What do you think Mordecai is trying to help Esther see about her situation?

Even though God isn't mentioned, where can you see His hidden hand at work?

Where has God placed you right now that might be more significant than you've been treating it?

03

Esther 5-7

03

Esther 5-7

What stood out to you from the message ?

What are some of the unexpected plot twists?

What do you notice about the timing of everything that unfolds?

Where do you see things being quietly turned around or reversed?

What might this story be showing us about how God works, even when He seems quiet?



Esther 8-9



Esther 8-9

What stood out to you from the message ?

What do you notice about the way Esther brings Haman's actions before the king?

What stands out to you about how the king responds once he understands what's happened?

As the story unfolds, what gives you the sense that evil isn't having the final word?

What do these chapters seem to reveal about God's commitment to His people?

When you look at situations of injustice or evil today, how might this story shape a deeper trust in God's sovereignty?

