

THROUGH THE BIBLE



ESTHER

Kristin Stansberry
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<https://www.joshuataalent.com/bible>

Class Outline



OVERVIEW & CONTEXT

- Author
- Background
- Message & Purpose
- Structure
- Timeline
- Maps
- Archeology

HIGHLIGHTS

- World vs. God
- Hidden for His Purpose
- Esther's Character
- Haman and the Antichrist
- Rejection of Vashti (Esther 1)
- Crowning of Esther (Esther 2)
- Plotting of Haman (Esther 3-4)
- Venture of Esther (Esther 5)
- Deliverance of the Jews (Esther 6-10)
- The Greatest Reversal
- Haman's Gallows
- Taking Part in God's Work
- Purim
- Remembering The Rescue

FURTHER STUDY

- Related TTB Content, Movies, Audio, Books, Articles, Commentaries

REFERENCES & RESOURCES



TRAILER

OVERVIEW & CONTEXT



OVERVIEW & CONTEXT

The story of Esther is an important link in chain of events that tell of reestablishing the Jewish nation in their own land in preparation for the coming Messiah.

It's a story of how they escaped extermination and were preserved to bring forth the Savior of the world.

Author

- Authorship is not explicitly stated within the book.
- Although Esther is one of the main characters of the book, she is not mentioned as the author.
- Some believe it was written in the fourth century BC by Mordecai.

Background

- Only book in the Bible that never mentions God
- Although his presence is implied – Divine Providence (4:14)
- Tightly connected with historical events
- Narrative literature, a great story
- Unique because purposes aren't always explicitly stated but derived from the story as a whole
- This book, and the book of Ruth are the only books that bear the names of women.

CURIOUS FACT:

- GOD IS NEVER MENTIONED
- INVITATION TO LOOK FOR GODS ACTIVITY
- "COINCIDENCE" & IRONIC REVERSAL

OVERVIEW & CONTEXT

Message & Purpose

- For the Jewish people scattered around the Persian Empire
- Story that gives encouragement and hope
- Model of how Jewish people could not just survive, but thrive in a Gentile environment
- Displays the work of God, evident but unseen, in the story of deliverance and redemption - making an orphan girl the queen and using her courage and influence to save the Jews from annihilation

OVERVIEW & CONTEXT

Famous Quotes

Mordecai speaking to Esther:

*“If you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will come to the Jewish people from another place, but you and your father’s family will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position **for such a time as this.**”*

Esther 4:14 (CSB)



Esther speaking to Mordecai:

*“Go and assemble all the Jews who can be found in Susa and fast for me. Don’t eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my female servants will also fast in the same way. After that, I will go to the king even if it is against the law. **If I perish, I perish.**”*

Esther 4:16 (CSB)

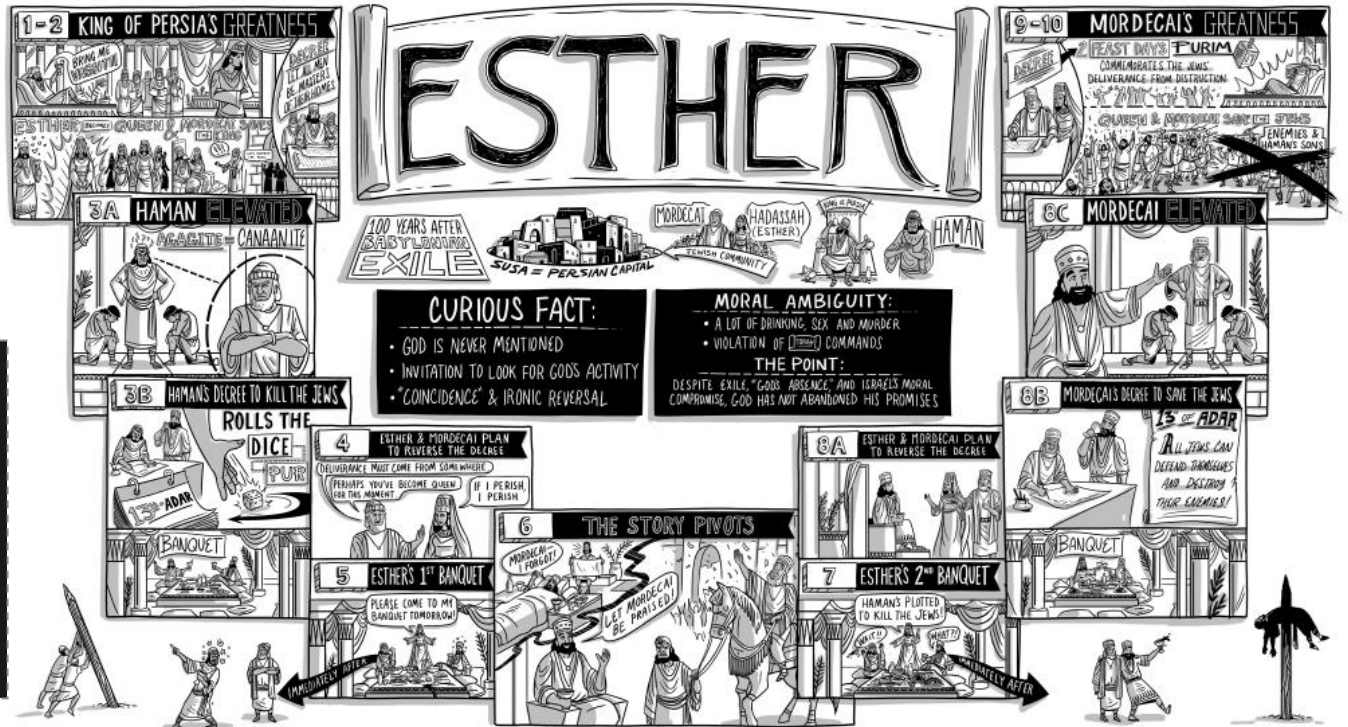
OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Structure

Literary Styles

The book of Esther is mostly narrative, along with some discourse sections.

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.



created by the Bible Project

Esther



OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Main Characters



Esther

Orphan who became the Queen of Persia

- Esther means “star”
- Hadassah, her Jewish name, means “myrtle” (Est 2:7)



[myrtle is an evergreen shrub which has a glossy aromatic foliage and white flowers followed by purple-black oval berries.]

Mordecai

The cousin and guardian of Esther

- Protector - God’s prepared vessel to help save the nation.
- Mourned publicly at the king’s gate - not ashamed of his people or his God.
- Counseled Esther, convincing her to act to save their people.

OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Main Characters



Haman

Main antagonist in the Book of Esther

- Descendant of Agag, the king of the Amalekites, who were long-time enemies of the Jewish people
(compare Est 3:1 with Deu 25:17-19; Exo 17:8-16; and 1Sa 15:1-35)



Ahasuerus (Xerxes I)

The King of Persia

- He was an impulsive ruler
(example: Gave great authority to Haman and then forgot what his decree involved)
- Xerxes listened to the advice of many people.
- Was a “puppet” with several of his chiefs pulling the strings.

OVERVIEW & CONTEXT

Outline

- Rejection of Vashti (Esther 1)
- Crowning of Esther (Esther 2)
- Plotting of Haman (Esther 3-4)
- Venture of Esther (Esther 5)
- Deliverance of the Jews (Esther 6-10)

Centers Around Three Feasts

1. Feast of King Ahasuerus (Esther 1-2)
2. Feast of Esther (Esther 7)
3. Feast of Purim (Esther 9)

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.

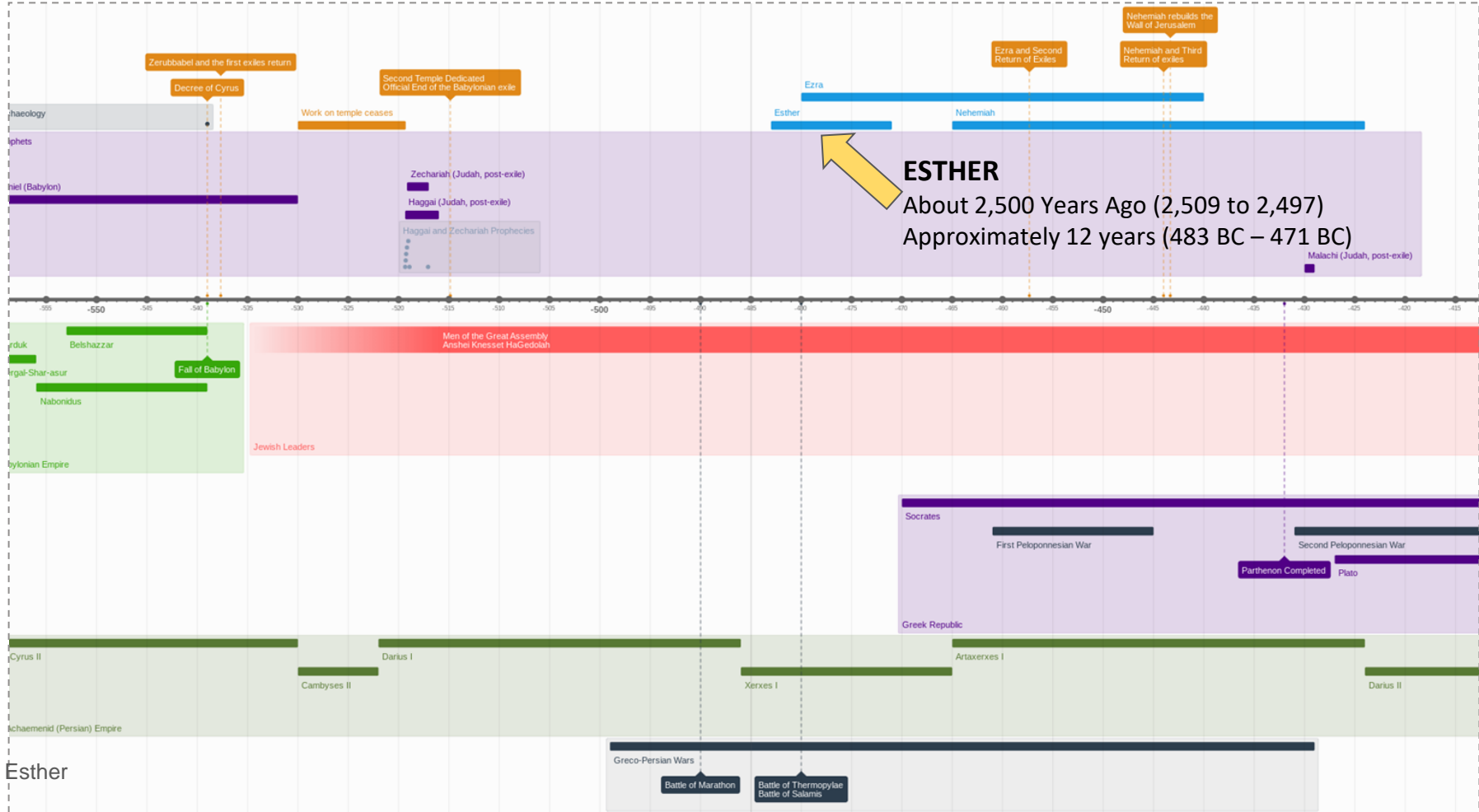
Key Themes

- God's "Exodus-like" reversal of fates
- God's commitment to Israel during crises from foreign nations
- The invitation to trust and hope in God's Providence
- Deliverance and preservation of the Jewish people

THE POINT:

DESPITE EXILE, "GOD'S ABSENCE," AND ISRAEL'S MORAL COMPROMISE, GOD HAS NOT ABANDONED HIS PROMISES

OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Timeline



OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Timeline

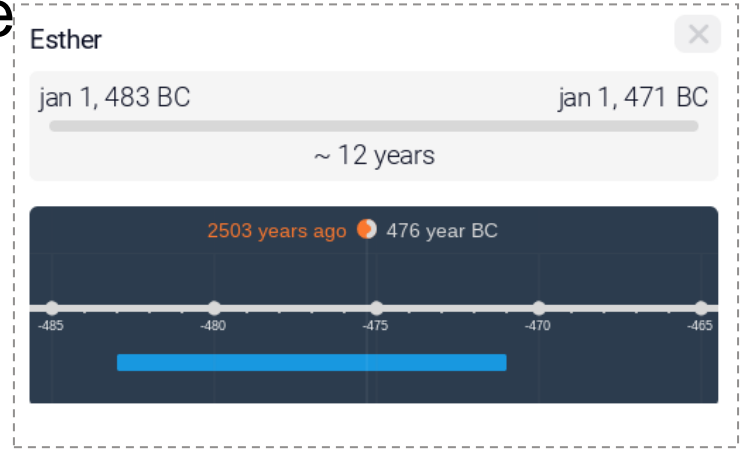
Before the Book of Esther

- The Fall of Babylon (539 BC ~2565 years ago)
 - Under Belshazzar(son)/Nabonidus(Father) as co-regents (Babylon) and Cyrus II (Persia)
 - Decree of Cyrus - Allowed the Jews to return to Israel (Zerubbabel and the first exiles)
- The second temple dedication (515 BC ~2541 years ago)
 - Marks the official end of the 70-year Babylonian exile
 - See Ezra 6:15 and Jeremiah 29:10
- After the Prophets: Daniel (Babylon), Zechariah (Judah, post-exile), and Haggai (Judah, post-exile)
- Persian Rulers: Cyrus II [aka Cyrus The Great], Cambyses II, and Darius I [aka Darius The Great] (559 BC to 486 BC)
- Greco-Persian War: Battle of Marathon (490 BC ~2516 years ago)
 - Athenians defeated Darius I and his Persian army

OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Timeline

During the Book of Esther

- Persian rule of Xerxes I (486 BC to 465 BC, about 21 years)
 - Son of Darius I, Darius the Great
 - Vashti was dethroned in the third year of his reign (Est 1:3) - this was likely during the great feast that history tells us Xerxes held as he prepared for his invasion of Greece (see below)
 - Esther was made queen in the seventh year of his reign.
 - It was in the twelfth year of his reign that the plot of Haman was hatched (Est 3:7), the year 474; so Esther had been queen about five years when Haman went to work.
- Between Ezra chapters 6 and 7
- Greco-Persian Wars: Battle of Thermopylae and Battle of Salamis (480 BC)
 - The campaign was a disaster
 - Sparta's king Leonidas I and 300 Spartans fought the Persian army at the pass of Thermopylae, giving the rest of the Greek army the ability to retreat and regroup.
 - The Persians eventually reached Athens and burned the Acropolis down.
 - The Battle of Salamis was the turning point in the war. The outnumbered Greek army defeated the Persians in a sea battle, forcing Xerxes to retreat into Asia Minor.



OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Timeline

After the Book of Esther

- The rest of the book of Ezra (480 BC to 440 BC ~40 years), the book of Nehemiah (465 BC to 424 BC, ~41 years), and the Prophet Malachi (During Nehemiah, 430 BC to 429 BC ~1 year | 2456 years ago)
- The Greek Republic begins
 - Socrates (470 BC to 399 BC ~70 years) then Plato (427 BC to 348 BC ~79 years)
 - First Peloponnesian War (461 BC to 445 BC ~16 years)
 - Parthenon Completed (432 BC ~2458 years ago)
 - Second Peloponnesian War (431 BC to 404 BC ~27 years)
- Persian Rulers
 - Xerxes was assassinated in 465, after ~21 year reign
 - Artaxerxes I (465 BC to 424 BC ~41 years)
 - Darius II (424 BC to 404 BC ~20 years)

OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Maps

Achaemenid Empire Xšāça



Old Persian, The Empire, or The Kingdom

- 550 BC–330 BC
- Iranian empire founded by Cyrus The Great (Cyrus II)
- Based in Modern-day Iran, it was the largest empire by that point in history
- Spanned 2.1 million square miles
- From the Balkans and Egypt in the west, West Asia at the base, the majority of Central Asia to the northeast, and the Indus Valley to the southeast.

OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Maps

SUSA su'-sa, soo'-sa - See SHUSHAN

Strong's Hebrew H7800: Shushan - residence of Pers. kings

SHUSHAN, a city known to the Greeks as **Susa**, in the province of Elam anciently called Susiana. It has been identified with the modern Sus, or Shush. There are many and large ruins, but the whole region is a gloomy wilderness.

Susa was one of the most important cities of the Ancient Near East.

Biblical Texts

Susa is mentioned in the Bible by the name Shushan, mainly in the Book of Esther, but also once each in the books of Ezra (Ezra 4:9), Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:1) and Daniel (Daniel 8:2).

According to these texts, Nehemiah lived in Susa during the Babylonian captivity of the 6th century BC (Daniel mentions it in a prophetic vision), while Esther became queen there, married to King Ahasuerus, and saved the Jews from genocide.

Elamite Kingdom (in orange) and Neighboring Areas



The approximate Bronze Age extension of the Persian Gulf is shown.

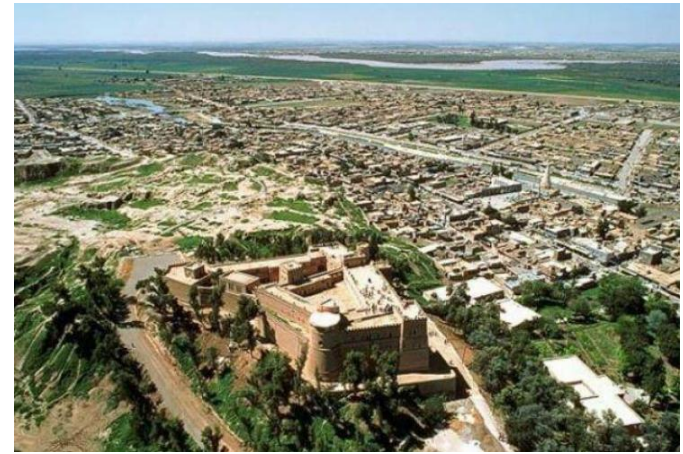
OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Maps

Current Day - Shush شوش - Khuzestan Province, Iran



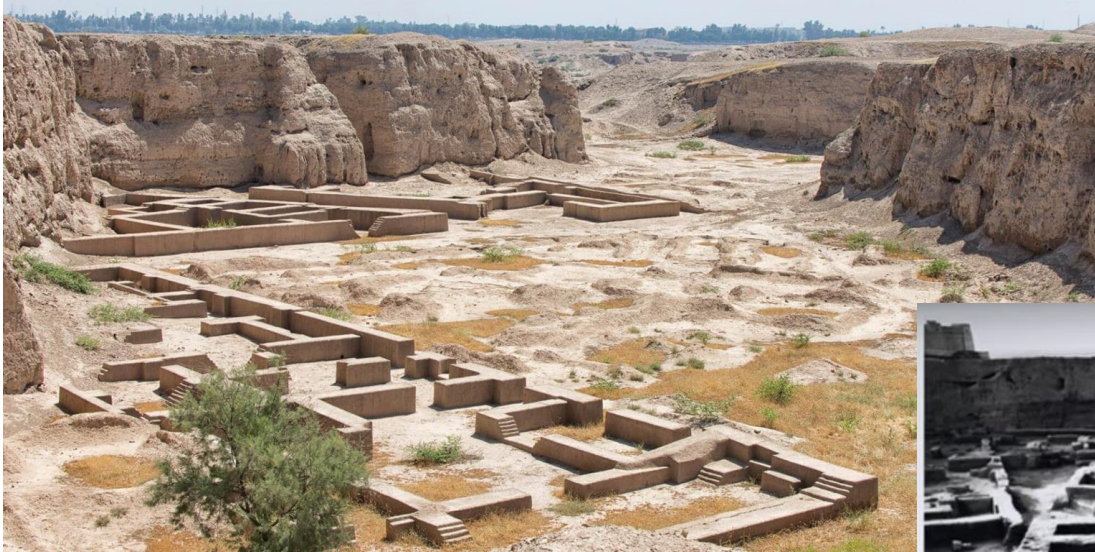
Shush is a city in the Central District of Shush County, Khuzestan Province, Iran, serving as the capital of both the county and the district.

Shush is beside ancient Susa.



OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Archeology

Palace at Susa



Excavated for almost one-hundred years, the site of Susa has revealed her ruined Persian palace and royal city, showing students of the Bible that the book of Esther must retain eyewitness reports of its function and layout. Today, some of the decorative palace remains are stored in the Louvre, including a foundation inscription that records where all the luxury building materials were brought from.





OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Archeology

Palace at Susa

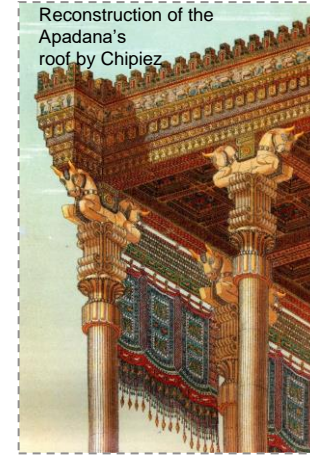
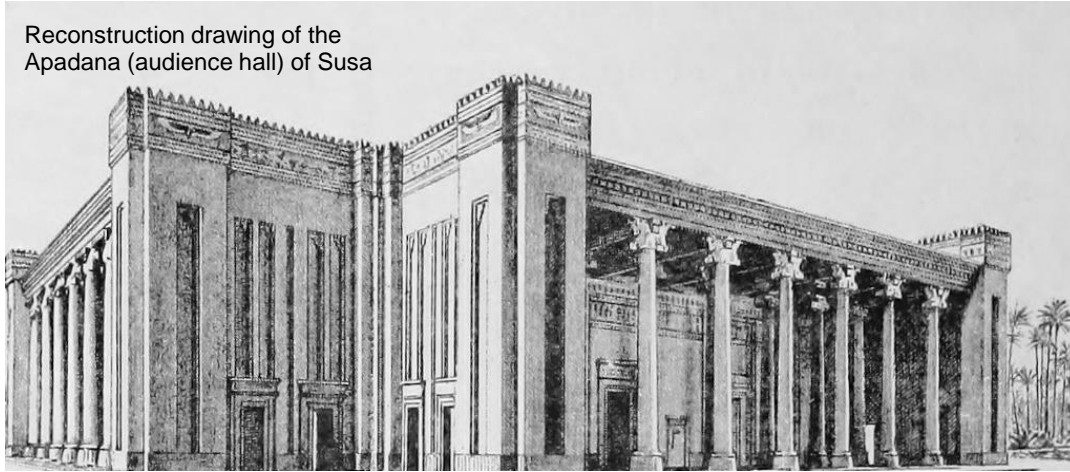


The Royal palace of Susa was built by Esther's royal father-in-law Darius I, known to history as Darius the Great. Darius constructed Susa as a winter capital of the Persian empire, here he constructed a massive 12-acre terrace upon which he built his monumental palace connected to the city of Susa by a large gate known in Esther as the King's Gate (Esther 2:19). To access the palace compound, one would have to cross a bridge over a river and walk through the King's Gate and into a large courtyard outside of the palace. This system of the Palace complex being separated from the city proper is reflected in the book of Esther that distinguishes between the city of Susa and the Citadel of Susa that should be identified as the Palace complex (Esther 3:15).

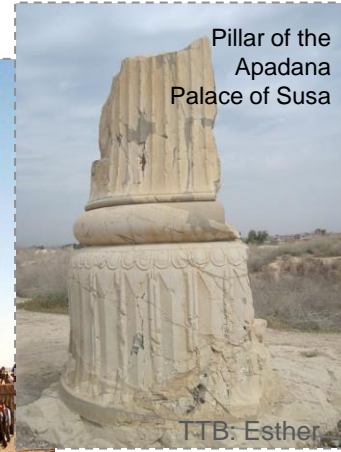
OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Archeology

Palace at Susa

Reconstruction drawing of the Apadana (audience hall) of Susa



Inside the palace, the royal banquet hall (known as the Apadana) has been identified. It was a pillared room whose elaborately decorated columns were 65 feet tall. This banquet hall saw the infamous feast of Xerxes when he drunkenly requested queen Vashti's presence (Esther 1), it also was a main place of Nehemiah's work as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 2). The very spot of the king's throne in this banquet hall has been identified by its stone base centered between the pillars of the room.



Pillar of the Apadana Palace of Susa

T.T.B: Esther

OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Archeology

Palace at Susa

The Palace itself was organized in a more Babylonian style incorporating three main courtyards that created a grand walkway through the palace on the way to the King's throne room. These courtyards would have been decorated with stone reliefs and glazed bricks, and they were separated by guard houses. The book of Esther indicates that the outer courtyard was the place the Royal officials would come with their business and wait to be summoned by the king, as Haman providentially did (Esther 6:4).



Apadana Palace (East Side), Persepolis

OVERVIEW & CONTEXT - Archeology

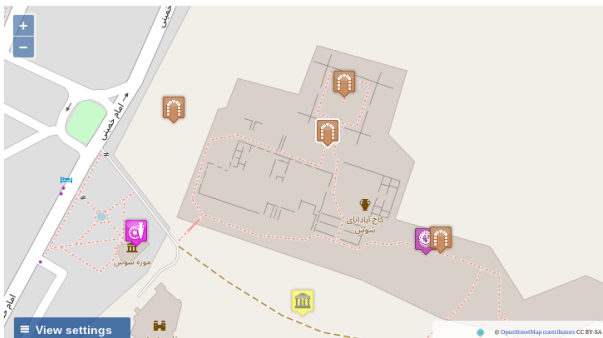
Susa, Palace of Darius the Great

Susa (Elamitic, *Babylonian*: *Sušim*; Greek *τὰ Σοῖσα*): capital of *Elam*, favorite residence of the Persian king *Darius I the Great*.

History

Photos

Museum Pieces



Susa, Palace of Darius, Room with Inscriptions



Description Susa, Palace of Darius, Room with Inscriptions

Date ca. 520 BCE–ca. 480 BCE

Susa, Palace of Darius, Second Court



Description Susa, Palace of Darius, Second Court

Date ca. 520 BCE–ca. 480 BCE

Susa, Palace of Darius, Third Court



Description Susa, Palace of Darius, Third Court

Date ca. 520 BCE–ca. 480 BCE



Susa, Palace of Darius, Treasury



Susa, Palace of Darius, Western Gate



Susa, Palace of Darius, First Court



Susa, Palace of Darius, Foundations

HIGHLIGHTS

- 18 Understand the evilness of the people:
"Evil, which will you be wiser?
The one who plagues the eye does he not see?
The one who frames the nation does he not
rebuke?"
- 19 He who teaches man knowledge,
the LORD—knows the thoughts of man,
that they are but a breath.
- 20 Blessed is the man whom you discipline,
O LORD,
and whom you teach out of your law
to give him rest from days of trouble,
until a pit is dug for the wicked,
and a pit is dug for the wicked,
he will not stand on his heritage,
for justice will return to his righteousness,
and all the upright in heart will follow it.
- 21 Who rises up for me against the wicked?
Who stands up for me against evildoers?
If the LORD had not been my help,
my soul would soon have lived in the land
of silence.
- 22 When I thought, "My liver slips,"
your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up,
your mercies of my heart are many,
your consolations cheer my soul.
- 23 Can wicked rulers be allied with you,
those who frame injustice by statute,
They band together against the life of the
righteous
and condemn the innocent to death?
But the LORD has become my stronghold,
and my God the rock of my refuge,
and will bring back on them their iniquity,
and wipe them out for their wickedness.
The LORD our God will wipe them out.

HIGHLIGHTS

World vs. God

- The book opens with a feast of the world's prince – Ahasuerus and closes with the feast of God's Prince – Mordecai.
- For a while Haman is exalted, and at the end, Mordecai is.
- Note the upsets in human history and the final triumph of God's chosen people.

Hidden for His Purpose

God always has someone in reserve to fulfill His purposes.

Esther is like Joseph and David in that God had each hidden away for His purposes. When the day came, He brought them to the front to work out His plan.

- Joseph: dungeon in Egypt to the palace as prime minister of the country
- David: hiding in caves then became King of the nation
- Esther: an orphan who became Queen and saved her people



A 13th/14th-century scroll of the Book of Esther from Fez, Morocco, held at the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris. Traditionally, a scroll of Esther is given only one roller, fixed to its left hand side, rather than the two used for a Torah scroll.

HIGHLIGHTS

Esther's Character

Beautiful and Modest (2:15)

Winsome (2:9-17; 5:1-3)

Obedient (2:10)

Humble (4:16)

Courageous (7:6)

Loyal and constant (2:22; 8:1-2, 7:3-4)



Haman and the Antichrist

Many Bible students see in wicked Haman a picture of the future Antichrist who will persecute the Jews and seek to destroy them.

- The phrase “this wicked Haman” in Est 7:6 adds up to 666 in the original Hebrew, and this is the number of the Beast (Rev 13:18).
- Haman plotted his murders secretly while appearing to be friendly to the Jews openly; Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel for seven years, but break it after half that time.
- Haman possessed tremendous power, given to him by the king; the Beast will possess great power, given to him by Satan.
- Haman’s pride was obvious, for he wanted all men to bow down to him; the Beast will cause all men to worship him and his image.
- Haman hated the Jews, and Antichrist will hate the Jews.
- But Haman was doomed, even though for a time he seemed to have power. Satan’s masterpiece, the Beast, will appear to be indestructible, but Christ will destroy him and his followers when He returns.

HIGHLIGHTS

Rejection of Vashti (Esther 1)

- Great Feast that Vashti refused to come to was held to consider the expedition against Greece
- Xerxes spent four years in preparation for this expedition
- King Ahasuerus of the story was Xerxes – the famous Persian monarch (485 – 465 BC)
- Book opens with King entertaining nobles and princes in the royal palace at Shushan
- Banquet lasted 180 days (1:4)
- Feasting in the gorgeous palace gardens and the women were entertained by the beautiful Queen Vashti in her private apartment (1:5-8)
- The king, in drunken revelry, calls for Vashti to show off her beauty
- This was an affront to her womanhood, so Vashti refused
- This made the king a laughingstock
- To defend himself, he deposed the Queen (1:12-22)



HIGHLIGHTS

Crowning of Esther (Esther 2)

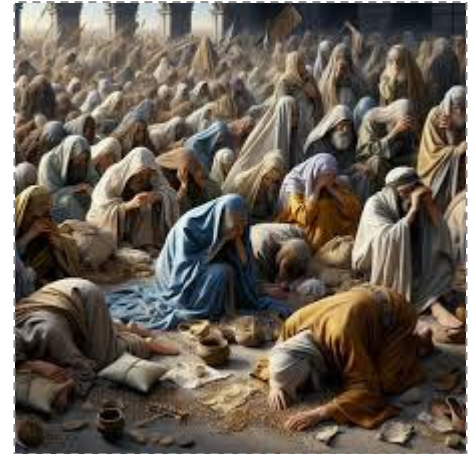
- Esther made queen of Persia
- Jewish orphan raised by her cousin Mordecai
- At this time (according to the Roman historian, Herodotus (485-425 BC), the Persian Empire comprised more than half of the then-known world.
- Between chapters 1 and 2 are the famous battles of Thermopylae and Salamis (480 BC)
- He attacked Greece with an army of five million men but suffered a terrible defeat
- Two years later, Xerxes married Esther
- She was his queen for thirteen years
- Esther lived into the reign of her stepson, Artaxerxes – under him, Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem
- Esther's marriage to Xerxes gave the Jews prestige at this court and made it possible for Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemia 2:1-8)



HIGHLIGHTS

Plotting of Haman (Esther 3-4)

- Wicked Haman becomes chief minister of the king (3:1)
- Highest position under the king of Persia
- He was vain, and was humiliated when Mordecai didn't pay him homage (3:2) and Haman magnified it to a capital offence
- Became so enraged he wanted a massacre of all the Jews (3:6)
- He cast lots to determine the day – 13th of march which was 10 months away (3:7)
- Tried to prove to the king all Jews were disloyal subjects and offered a bribe of a million dollars (3:9)
- King signed royal decree that all Jewish men, women, and children should be killed and their property taken (this is like the Holocaust)
- Imagine the fasting, praying, and weeping in sackcloth that took place among the Jews (4:1-3)
- Queen Esther spoke with Mordecai about all of this and Mordecai said, "And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" (4:4)
- She asked for all in Susa to fast for her for 3 days and she would "go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish." (4:15-17)



HIGHLIGHTS

Venture of Esther (Esther 5)

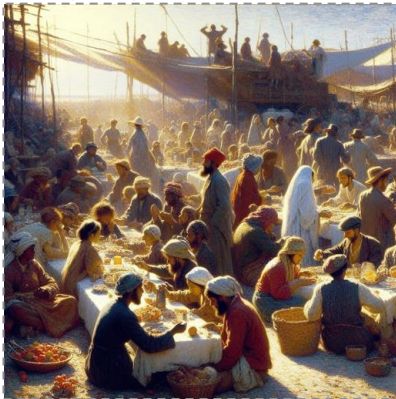
- Esther answers the challenge of Mordecai
- She put her life on the line for the sake of her people
- Carried out the task with courage – going unsummoned into the presence of the king (think of what the king had done to Vashti!)
- Once accepted into the king's presence, used resources will, knew the king liked good living so invited him to a banquet.



HIGHLIGHTS

Deliverance of the Jews (Esther 6-10)

- The king couldn't sleep so he had the book recording daily events read to him (6:1)
- He was reminded of the event when Mordecai had warned the king of an assignation attempt on his life (6:2)
- Haman was trapped thinking the king wanted to honor him, but the king honored Mordecai instead (6:6)
- During the second banquet, Esther pleaded for her own life, and the life of her people (7:3)
- The King granted her request
- Haman was executed on the very gallows he'd prepared for Mordecai (7:10)
- The Feast of Purim is established
- Mordecai is elevated to the place left vacant by Haman – Second only to the king of Persia (10:3)



HIGHLIGHTS

God's hand of providence was moving to set things right.

- Vashti refuses to come when she is called, but then Esther shows up when she is not called
- The honor of the king goes to Mordecai instead of Haman
- Haman expects to be honored at a feast, but he is condemned instead.
- The gallows intended for Mordecai are used for Haman

THE GREATEST REVERSAL **Excerpts from She Reads Truth Bible**

All of these reversals point us to the greatest reversal of all: Christ came to undo the fall.

He took Adam's disaster, our disaster, and in a most unexpected way, He turned death on it's head and gave us life.

Romans 5:17

If by the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive the overflow of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

*The Central Character of the story is Christ
Even though God isn't mentioned, he still reveals himself*

*Do you find yourself up late at night unable to sleep?
Look back over the history of God's providence and see
history according to His plan.*

*We don't always see the loose ends tied up, but that
doesn't mean they're not coming together.
I means we're finite and we can't see the whole picture.
Trust that God won't leave loose ends.*

*"Be silent before the LORD and wait expectantly for Him."
- Psalm 37:7*

HIGHLIGHTS - Haman's Gallows



Relief of an attack on an enemy town during the reign of Tiglath-Pileser III. Palace wall in Kalhu (Nimrud).
Wikimedia

Haman prepared gallows for Mordecai – 75 feet (about 6 stories) tall! (5:14-15)

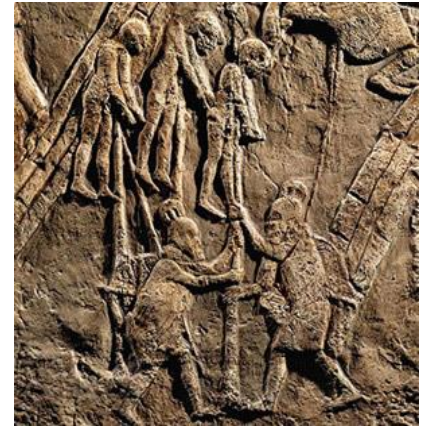
References to hanging in the book of Esther often paired with the noun “gallows.”

- Esther 2:23 – the two conspirators were hung
- Esther 5:14 – Haman’s wife and friends suggest that he hang Mordecai
- Esther 7:9 – Haman was hung on the “gallows” he had built for Mordecai
- Esther 9:13 – Haman’s ten sons were hung

The “gallows” was not a platform and cross beam as we think of it, for hanging a person by breaking their neck or by strangulation. The Hebrew word used here and elsewhere in Esther is *ets* (עץ), literally “a tree,” although the word can refer to a pole or other wooden object. Both archaeology and ancient literary sources indicate that the technique in question here was actually impalement.

It seems likely that לתלות על העץ “to hang from the tree” should be translated “to impale on a stake.”

For Haman, impalement served as the method of execution while for his sons, it was a post-mortem rite of humiliating the corpses.



Judeans impaled by Sennacherib's army, Lachish relief. Flickr

HIGHLIGHTS

PAUSE & REFLECT

- What "Royal Position" have you been given?
- What special authority and access do you have (to what and to whom)?
- Why has God planned for you to live at this particular time and place in history?
- In what way is God asking you to do something uncomfortable, completely selfless, and costly
- Are you willing to do it?

TAKING PART IN GOD'S WORK

Excerpts from She Reads Truth Bible

God invited Ester to join Him in saving the Jewish nation. If Ester had refused to go to the king, God still would have saved His people, but she would have missed an opportunity.

As Esther's cousin Mordecai said:

If you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will come to the Jewish people from another place, but you and your father's family will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this." Esther 4:14 (CSB)

Our refusal to take part in God's work doesn't thwart God. It limits our privilege to take part in what He is doing.

God's providence is comprehensive, wise, and holy. His timing and calling are no mistake, and He has placed us, like Esther, here, now, and for such a time as this.

We, like Esther, can have courage, comfort, and peace. From a human perspective, our lives and circumstances can seem totally out of control and scary. But we can rest in God's providence, knowing that He is working.

Look for God's invitation to join Him in His work. Have courage, comfort, and peace - you can join Him!

HIGHLIGHTS - Purim

Purim (Pūrīm) פורים

Purim is a springtime holiday commemorating the events of the book of Esther, where the Jewish Queen Esther and Mordechai overturn a decree of genocide against the Jews of the ancient Persian Empire.

- First Celebration occurs in 473 BC (Esther 9:18-28)
- Celebrated annually
- 2024: Sunset, March 23rd to nightfall March 24th
- 2025: Sunset March 13th to nightfall March 14th
- Sets a seal on accuracy of the story
- Celebrates the deliverance of Jewish people from a fearful danger

ELEMENTS OF PURIM

- Purim is the plural of the Hebrew word pur meaning “lot” (Esther 3:6-7)
- A Day of Feasting and Joy
- Reading the Megillah - The Book of Esther
- Blotting out Haman’s Name
- Blessings before and after
- Sending Gifts to One Another
- Gifts for Those in Need
- Gratitude for Miracles
- Meaning Behind the Mask
- An Unbeatable People
- Topsy-Turvy Day



Gaily wrapped baskets of sweets, snacks and other foodstuffs given as mishloach manot on Purim day



Scroll of Esther (Megillah)



A wooden Purim gragger (Ra'ashan) Used to blot out Haman's name

HIGHLIGHTS

The Lord delivered His people from their enemies.

- ❖ He turned their sorrow into gladness and mourning into a holiday
- ❖ They vow, joyfully yet solemnly, to remember.

A vivid picture of the restoration we experience in the gospel of Jesus!

- ❖ We were weeping and sorrowful, but now we're throwing a party!
- ❖ Is this not the mix of reverence and Joy with which we should view our salvation?
- ❖ We have been rescued from our enemy, even from ourselves.
- ❖ We have been preserved and restored in the midst of threats to our very souls.

REMEMBERING OUR RESCUE

Excerpts from She Reads Truth Bible

*From the last chapters of Esther, we learn that remembering is more than whimsical, fleeting thoughts. **Remembering is a spiritual discipline that reorients our hearts and minds to the gospel of Jesus.***

Memories are powerful.

Regularly and intentionally recalling the goodness of our God is an act of faithfulness that restores the fullness of joy of our salvation.

They connect us to the legacy of God's people - a legacy, that by God's grace has been extended to us (Gentiles).

Remembering the past also gives us a new lens through which to see the future.

How have you seen God's faithfulness in your life in the past week or year?

What about in the generations that came before you? God's faithfulness in the past gives us courage to believe in His faithfulness for the future.

Our sovereign God is active in our lives today like He was active in the story of Queen Esther.

Let's regularly remember and rejoice in God's rescue of His people, for ourselves and those who come after us, "so that they might put their confidence in God" (Ps 78:7).

Related Through The Bible (TTB) Content

Main Website (skip to the end):

<https://www.joshuataallent.com/bible/#end>

Ezra 1-6 and Haggai

https://www.joshuataallent.com/wp-content/uploads/TTB/notes/TTB_Notes_Ezra-1-6-and-Haggai.pdf

https://www.joshuataallent.com/wp-content/uploads/TTB/presentations/TTB_Presentation_Ezra-1-6-and-Haggai.pdf

<https://www.joshuataallent.com/wp-content/uploads/TTB/audio/Through-the-Bible-Ezra-1-6-and-Haggai.mp3>

Ezra 7-10

https://www.joshuataallent.com/wp-content/uploads/TTB/notes/TTB_Notes_Ezra-7-10.pdf

https://www.joshuataallent.com/wp-content/uploads/TTB/presentations/TTB_Presentation_Ezra-7-10.pdf

<https://www.joshuataallent.com/wp-content/uploads/TTB/audio/Through-the-Bible-Ezra-7-10.mp3>

Movies



[One Night with the King ≡ 2006 ≡ Trailer](#)



[Bible Collection: Esther \(2000\) | Full Movie | F. Murray Abraham | Louise Lombard | Jurgen Prochn](#)



[The Book of Esther full movie](#)
[#christianmovies](#)

Book

The Queen You Thought You Knew: Unmasking Esther's Hidden Story

<https://www.amazon.com/Queen-You-Thought-Knew/dp/0983269017>

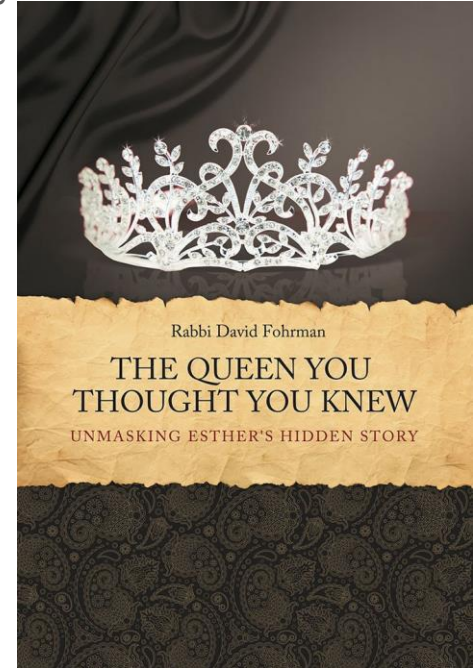
"I just finished a book that studies the book of Esther in depth (highly recommend, it's called "the Queen you thought you knew" by Rabbi David Fohrman).

The book attempts to dive into some questions we might not think to ask, for these first couple of chapters these questions included:

- *Why did Xerxes feel the need to depose his wife and find a new Queen?*
- *Why did Esther conceal her nationality?*

In the setting of this story Xerxes is King and many Jews have returned to Israel after exile. Esther (and Mordecai) remain in Persia during the height of Persian rule. It is not known who wrote this book. It's possible it was Ezra, and some suggest Mordecai, but the author records a critical time in Jewish history that Jews today still remember and celebrate."

-Di Beals (in the YouVersion yearly Bible Reading plan with Venture)



Audio

Apocalypse of Esther

<https://www.bethimmanuel.org/audio/apocalypse-esther>

The Septuagint version of the book of Esther begins with a short apocalypse which introduces the spiritual war at work behind the scenes in the story of Esther. Listen to an important teaching about the concealment of God in this world, things transpiring behind the veil in story of Purim and the history of the Jewish people. A deceptively simple story about the revelation of the kingdom.

Haman's Gallows

<https://www.bethimmanuel.org/audio/hamans-gallows>

Find out how the story of Mordechai, Haman, and Esther contains a concealed allusion to the story of the Master's death and resurrection at Passover. An important teaching from the Midrash Rabbah on Esther makes the connection obvious, revealing a relationship between the dynasty of King Saul, the first king of Israel, and the final redemption.

Articles

More about Haman's Gallows

<https://www.thetorah.com/article/was-haman-hanged-impaled-or-crucified>

<https://crossroadsbible.net/2019/03/15/hamans-gallows/>

More about Purim

<https://www.sefaria.org/topics/purim?tab=sources>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purim>

Sefaria.org #Esther

<https://www.sefaria.org/topics/esther?tab=sources>

From The Armstrong Institute of Biblical Archaeology

[A Nehemiah-Esther Link](#)

[Esther in the Dead Sea Scrolls?](#)

[The Dead Sea Scrolls Don't Include the Book of Esther—or Do They?](#)

[Book of Esther: Fact or Fiction?](#)

[Uncovering the Bible's Buried Civilizations: The Persians](#)

[Harmonizing Persian History and the Bible](#)

Commentaries

Keil and Delitzsch OT Commentary

<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/kad/esther/1.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/kad/esther/2.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/kad/esther/3.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/kad/esther/4.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/kad/esther/5.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/kad/esther/6.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/kad/esther/7.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/kad/esther/8.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/kad/esther/9.htm>

<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/kad/esther/10.htm>

REFERENCES & RESOURCES



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Through the Bible (TTB) Website & Bible History Timeline by Joshua Tallent: <https://www.joshuatallent.com/bible/>
<https://time.graphics/line/728507>

The Bible Project website <https://bibleproject.com/guides/>

Warren Wiersbe's Expository Outlines (Book)

Bible Hub (including Keil and Delitzsch OT Commentary)

What the Bible is All About by Henrietta Mears (Book)

She Reads Truth Bible (CSB version)

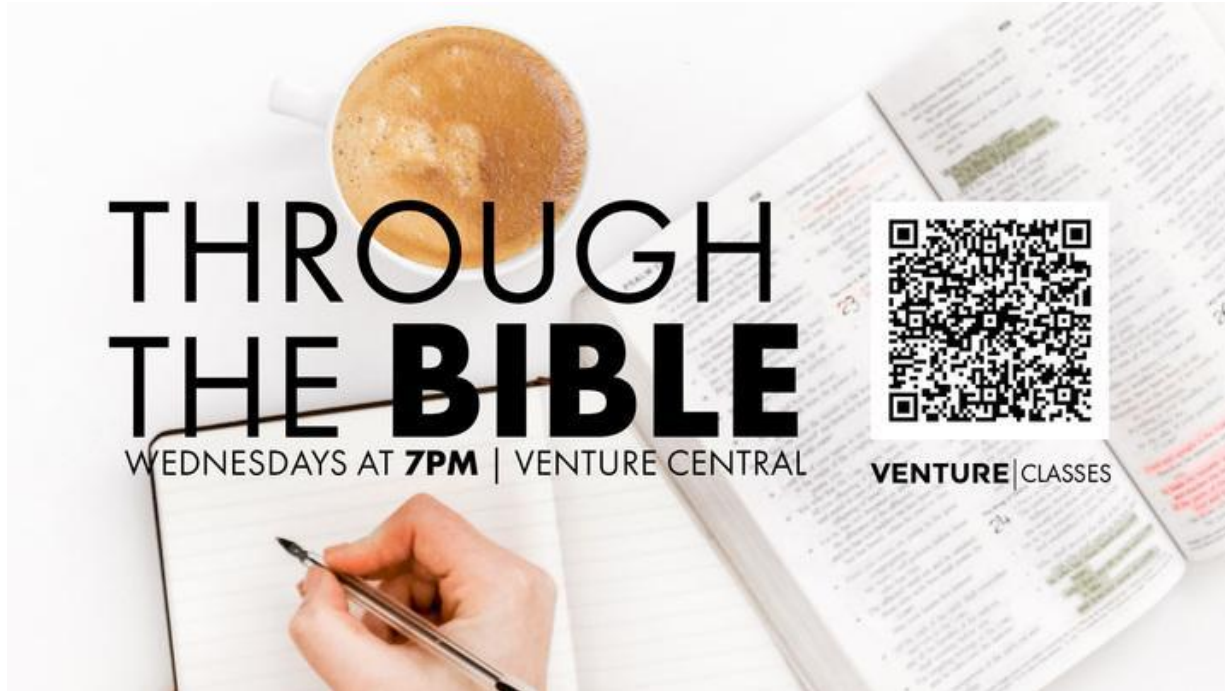
Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/>

Sefaria website - A Living Library of Torah <https://www.sefaria.org/>

Armstrong Institute of Biblical Archaeology <https://armstronginstitute.org/>



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ourventurechurch/groups/through-the-bible