

Welcome to the Family



Alex, Kelly, Owen Person

Such A Time As This: The Book of Esther



Such A Time As This: Holiday Celebrations



Where Esther Fits in the Timeline

- 586 BC – Jerusalem destroyed,
people taken to Babylon
- 537 BC – First wave returning home
- 516 BC – Temple rebuild completed
- *-484-473 BC – Book of Esther events*
- 458 BC – Ezra and second wave
- 445 BC – Nehemiah to Jerusalem

What We've Seen in Esther



Image from: lightstock.com

➤ Esther's courage and wisdom.

Esther 4:13-16

¹³ Then Mordecai told *them* to reply to Esther, “Do not imagine that you in the king’s palace can escape any more than all the Jews.

**All Scriptures from 1995 New American Standard*

Esther 4:13-16

¹⁴ For 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. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:13-16

¹⁵ Then Esther told *them* to reply to Mordecai,

¹⁶ “Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.”

What We've Seen in Esther



➤ God's perfect timing.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Esther Chapters 8 through 10



➤ Mordecai promoted.

Esther 8:1-2

¹ On that day King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther; and Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had disclosed what he was to her.

² The king took off his signet ring which he had taken away from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

Esther Chapters 8 through 10



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➤ Esther's last request.

Esther 8:3-6

³ Then Esther spoke again to the king, fell at his feet, wept and implored him to avert the evil *scheme* of Haman the Agagite and his plot which he had devised against the Jews.

⁴ The king extended the golden scepter to Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king.

Esther 8:3-6

⁵ Then she said, “If it pleases the king and if I have found favor before him and the matter *seems* proper to the king and I am pleasing in his sight, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king’s provinces.

Esther 8:3-6

⁶ For how can I endure to see the calamity which will befall my people, and how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?”

Esther 8:8

⁸ Now you write to the Jews as you see fit, in the king's name, and seal *it* with the king's signet ring; for a decree which is written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's signet ring may not be revoked.”

Esther Chapters 8 through 10



➤ The new decree goes out.

Esther 8:10-12

¹⁰ He [Mordecai] wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, and sealed it with the king's signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on horses, riding on steeds sired by the royal stud.

Esther 8:10-12

¹¹ In them the king granted the Jews who were in each and every city *the right* to assemble and to defend their lives, to destroy, to kill and to annihilate the entire army of any people or province which might attack them, including children and women, and to plunder their spoil,

Esther 8:10-12

¹² on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month (that is, the month Adar).

Esther 8:15-17

¹⁵ Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a large crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced.

¹⁶ For the Jews there was light and gladness and joy and honor.

Esther 8:15-17

¹⁷ In each and every province and in each and every city, wherever the king's commandment and his decree arrived, there was gladness and joy for the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many among the peoples of the land became Jews, for the dread of the Jews had fallen on them.

Esther Chapters 8 through 10



Image from: [lightstock.com](https://www.lightstock.com)

➤ The Jews defeat their enemies.

Esther 9:16-17

¹⁶ Now the rest of the Jews who *were* in the king's provinces assembled, to defend their lives and rid themselves of their enemies, and kill 75,000 of those who hated them; but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

Esther 9:16-17

¹⁷ *This was done* on the thirteenth day of the month Adar, and on the fourteenth day they rested and made it a day of feasting and rejoicing.

Esther Chapters 8 through 10



Image from: iLightstock.com

➤ The feast of Purim is established.

Esther 9:20-22

²⁰ Then Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,

²¹ obliging them to celebrate the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same month, annually,

Esther 9:20-22

²² because on those days the Jews rid themselves of their enemies, and *it was a month* which was turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and sending portions *of food* to one another and gifts to the poor.

Esther 9:26-28

²⁶ Therefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. And because of the instructions in this letter, both what they had seen in this regard and what had happened to them,

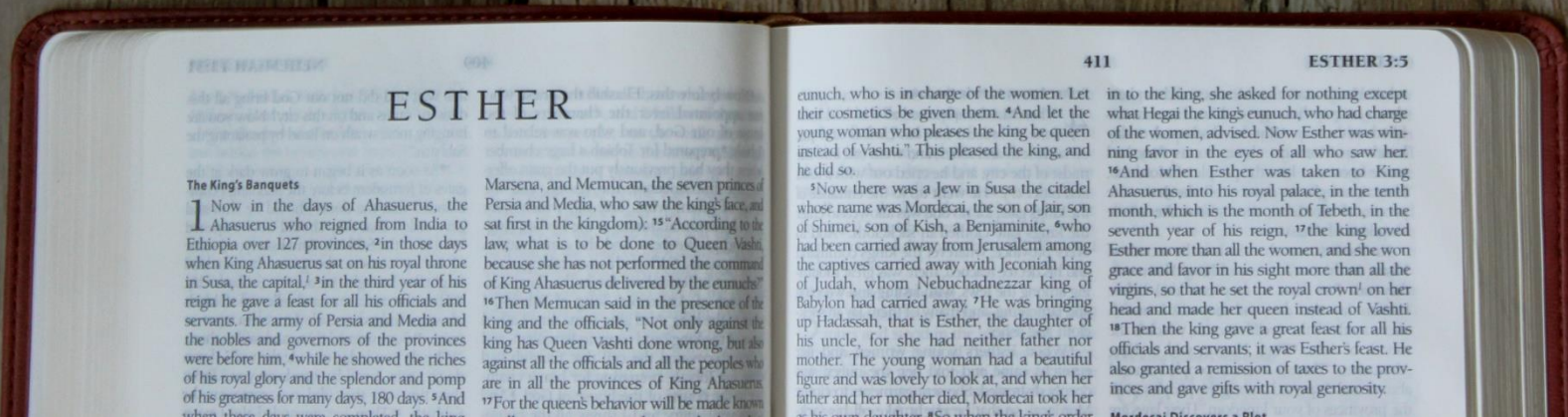
Esther 9:26-28

²⁷ the Jews established and made a custom for themselves and for their descendants and for all those who allied themselves with them, so that they would not fail to celebrate these two days according to their regulation and according to their appointed time annually.

Esther 9:26-28

²⁸ So these days were to be remembered and celebrated throughout every generation, every family, every province and every city; and these days of Purim were not to fail from among the Jews, or their memory fade from their descendants.

Some Things We Notice



1) Celebrate your spiritual victories!

Esther 9:22

²² because on those days the Jews rid themselves of their enemies, and *it was a* month which was turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and sending portions *of food* to one another and gifts to the poor.

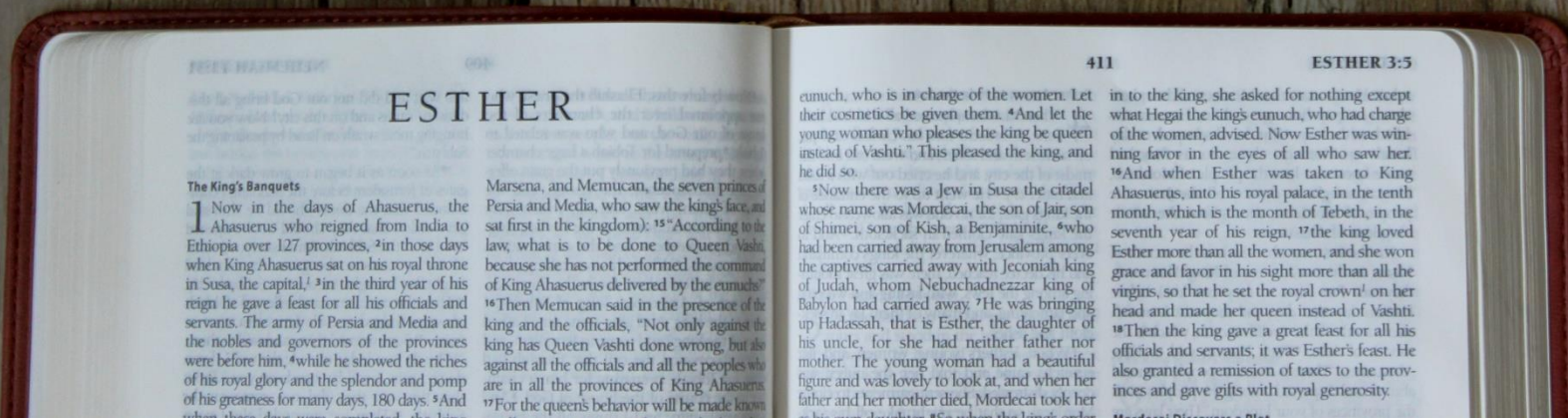
Exodus 23:14

¹⁴ “Three times a year you shall celebrate a feast to Me.

Luke 15:32

³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and *has begun* to live, and *was* lost and has been found.’”

Some Things We Notice



2) God has an amazing way of turning things around.

Esther 9:22

²² because on those days the Jews rid themselves of their enemies, and *it was a month which was turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday*; that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and sending portions *of food* to one another and gifts to the poor.

Revelation 21:4

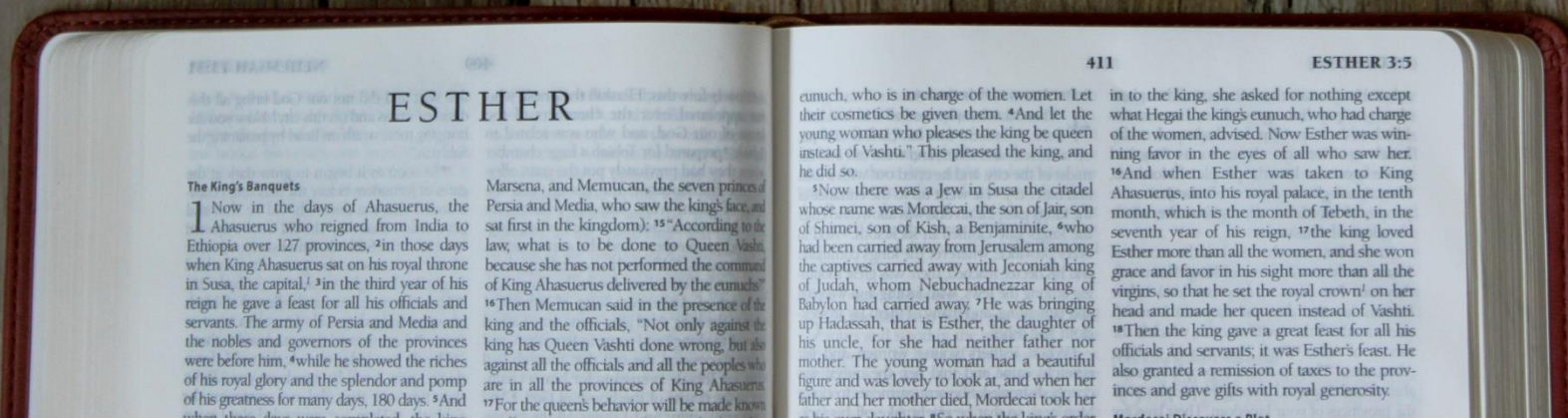
⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

Ephesians 2:4-5

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Some Things We Notice



3) Some things can't be changed;
but new chapters can be written.

Revelation 20:12

¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

1 Timothy 1:15-16

¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.

1 Timothy 1:15-16

¹⁶ Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.



Esther 4:16

¹⁵ Then Esther told *them* to reply to Mordecai,

¹⁶ “Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.”

May we choose to stand with
God in 2024...



Acts 2:37-38

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

James 5:16

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.