

Esther

The events described in *Esther* precede those in *Nehemiah* by about thirty years. In fact, it is probable that events in *Esther* paved the way for those in *Nehemiah*.

Esther tells the story of a Jewish girl who, through a series of “coincidences”, is named Queen of Persia and then saves the Jews from being annihilated by a wicked royal official. God is never mentioned in the book, but it is clear that His hand is at work throughout.

Esther is said to be a favorite book of present day Jews.

Old Testament Timeline

BC	2000-1700	1700	1250	1210	<i>David's Kingdom</i> 1030
Creation/Fall Adam & Eve Noah	Patriarchs Abraham Isaac Jacob Joseph	Israel in Egypt	The Exodus Moses The Law	Promised Land Joshua Deborah Gideon Sampson	United Kingdom Samuel Saul David Solomon

Bumper sticker:

Most people want to serve God,
but only in an advisory capacity.

PEOPLE

Benjamin the tribe descended from Jacob's youngest son **Esther/Hadassah** an orphaned Jewish girl who is raised by her cousin Mordecai and becomes the Queen of Persia **Haman** an advisor to King Xerxes who plots to wipe out the Jews **Hathach** a eunuch who serves as a messenger between Esther and Mordecai **Hegai** the king's eunuch in charge of the women **Jacob** also known as Israel, he is the father of the twelve tribes of Israel; son of Isaac; grandson of Abraham **Memucan** the royal advisor who proposes that Xerxes banish Queen Vashti **Mordecai** a Jewish exile in Babylon and Persia who raises his cousin Hadassah (Esther) and is instrumental in saving the Jews from destruction **Nebuchadnezzar** king of Babylon, God enables him to conquer Jerusalem and exile the people of Judah **Vashti** Persian queen who is deposed for disobeying her husband, King Xerxes **Xerxes** King of Persia, also known as Ahasuerus

TERMS

eunuch a male who cannot perform sexually, either as the result of castration or natural causes; often found in the king's household as servants to the women **harem** a group of women which shares one husband or mate **Purim** also known as the Feast of Lots, celebrates Queen Esther and Mordecai for saving the Jews from extinction

Genealogy of Christ

Abraham—Sarah
|
Isaac—Rebekah
|
Jacob—Leah
|
Judah—Tamar
|
Perez
|
Hezron
|
Ram
|
Amminadab
|
Nahshon
|
Salmon—Rahab
|
Boaz—Ruth
|
Obed
|
Jesse
|
David—Bathsheba
|
Solomon
|
Rehoboam
|
Abijah
|
Asa
|
Jehoshaphat
|
Jehoram
|
Uzziah
|
Jotham
|
Ahaz
|
Hezekiah
|
Manasseh
|
Amon
|
Josiah
|
Jecooniah
|
Shealtiel
|
Zerubbabel
|
Abiud
|
Eliakim
|
Azor
|
Zadok
|
Akim
|
Eliud
|
Eleazar
|
Matthan
|
Jacob
|
Joseph—Mary
|
Jesus

930	722	587	538	336	63 BC
Divided Kingdom	Samaria	Jerusalem	Judeans return	Greek	Roman
North: Ahab Elijah	South: Hezekiah Isaiah	falls to Assyria, scatters	falls to Babylon, exiled	rule	rule
			Esther Ezra Nehemiah		