

Analysis of
ESTHER

"GOD'S SOVEREIGN PROTECTION OF HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE"

Mordecai to Esther: "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 to Mordecai: "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."
Esther 4:14, 16

Analysis of ESTHER

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

June, 1995, updated October, 2019

WordExplain.com

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

ESTHER

"GOD'S SOVEREIGN PROTECTION OF HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE"

Mordecai to Esther: "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 to Mordecai: "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."
Esther 4:14, 16

A1 JEWISH ASCENDANCY 1 - 2

B1 The King's Deposing of the Reluctant Queen Vashti 1

- C1 The open house and banquet of King Ahasuerus 1:1-9
- C2 Queen Vashti's refusal to be displayed at the king's banquet 1:10-12
- C3 The king's deposing of the queen 1:13-22
 - D1 The king's consultation with the seven princes of Persia and Media 1:13-15
 - D2 Memucan's advice that the king depose Vashti to promote wifely respect for husbands throughout the realm 1:16-20
 - D3 The king's edict deposing Vashti 1:21-22

B2 Esther's Selection as Queen from the King's Expanded Harem 2:1-20

- C1 King Ahasuerus' reflection upon his deposed queen 2:1
- C2 The initiation of efforts to select a new queen 2:2-4
- C3 The introduction of Mordecai, uncle and foster parent of beautiful Esther 2:4-7
- C4 The taking of Esther into the king's harem of virgins 2:8-11
- C5 The procedure for the king's evaluation of each virgin 2:12-14
- C6 The king's selection of Esther as his queen 2:15-18
- C7 Esther's care in not revealing her Jewish ancestry 2:19-20

B3 Mordecai's Prevention of the King's Assassination 2:21-23

A2 JEWISH DANGER 3 - 7

B1 Haman's Retaliatory Plan to Exterminate Mordecai and All Other Jews 3

- C1 The historical background behind Haman's hatred of the Jews 3:1-6
 - D1 The promotion of Haman 3:1-2a
 - D2 The refusal of Mordecai to bow down to Haman 3:2b-4
 - D3 Haman's determination to exterminate both Mordecai and all the Jews 3:5-6
- C2 Haman's enactment of legislation authorizing extermination of Jews 3:7-15
 - D1 His preparation: The casting of lots (Purim) to determine the most propitious date for executing his plan 3:7
 - D2 His lobbying of the king for legislation 3:8-9
 - E1 His maligning the Jewish people 3:8
 - E2 His recommendation of their destruction 3:9
 - E3 His offer to finance their destruction 3:9
 - D3 The king's authorization of legislation 3:10-11
 - D4 The writing of the legislation 3:12
 - D5 The empire-wide posting of the legislation 3:13-15

B2 Mordecai and Esther's Plan to Save the Jews 4

- C1 The mourning of Mordecai and the Jews 4:1-3
- C2 Esther's attempts to ascertain Mordecai's grief 4:4-6
 - D1 Her learning of Mordecai's grief 4:4
 - D2 Her unsuccessful attempt to provide suitable clothing for Mordecai 4:4
 - D3 Her sending Hathach to learn of Mordecai's plight 4:5-6
- C3 Mordecai's informing Esther of the plot against the Jews 4:7-9
 - D1 His relating to Hathach the planned destruction of the Jews 4:7
 - D2 His informing of the finances involved 4:7
 - D3 His providing a copy of the text of the law 4:8

- D4 His asking Esther to plead with the king on behalf of her people 4:8
- D5 Hathach's return to Esther 4:9
- C4 Esther's reminding Mordecai of her personal danger in visiting the king without a royal summons 4:10-12
 - D1 Her reply through Hathach 4:10
 - D2 Her protesting to Mordecai of her inability to speak to the king uninvited 4:11
 - E1 Her informing of the law of the death penalty for an uninvited visitor to the royal court unless the king extended his scepter 4:11
 - E2 Her informing of her not having been summoned to the king for the past 30 days 4:11
 - D3 The communication of Esther's words to Mordecai 4:12
- C5 Mordecai's reminding Esther of her jeopardy in any case 4:13-14
 - D1 His stating that she in the palace would not be exempt from the law of Jewish extermination 4:13
 - D2 His belief that, if she remained silent, help for the Jews would arise from another source 4:14
 - D3 His prediction that she and her father's house would perish 4:14
 - D4 His suggestion that her position as queen had been providentially arranged: "And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" 4:14
- C6 Esther's instructions to Mordecai to organize fasting support preparatory to her visiting the king 4:15-17
 - D1 Her instructing her couriers 4:15
 - D2 Her instructions to Mordecai to organize fasting on her behalf: "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. 4:16
 - D3 Her plans to fast also: "I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. 4:16
 - D4 Her resolve to visit the king at all costs 4:16
 - E1 "And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law;
 - E2 "And if I perish, I perish."

D5 Mordecai's departure to follow Esther's instructions 4:17

B3 Esther's Holding of a Banquet for the King and Haman 5:1-8

C1 Esther's invitation to her banquet 5:1-4

D1 Esther's unauthorized presenting of herself to the king 5:1

D2 The king's acceptance of Esther 5:2

D3 The king's asking for Esther's request 5:3

D4 Esther's invitation of the king and Haman to her banquet 5:4

C2 Esther's invitation to another banquet 5:5-8

D1 The prompt arrival of the king and Haman at Esther's banquet 5:5

D2 The king's asking of Esther, again, for her request 5:6

D3 Esther's promise to give the king her request at a second banquet to be held the next day 5:7-8

B4 Haman's renewed anger at Mordecai 5:9-14

C1 Haman's pleasure at his status before the king and queen 5:9

C2 Haman's anger at Mordecai's lack of respect toward him 5:9

C3 Haman's report to his friends and wife 5:10-13

D1 His calling for his friends and wife 5:10

D2 His recounting his glorious status before the king 5:11

D3 His report of his invitations from the queen to two banquets 5:12

D4 His dissatisfaction at seeing Mordecai sitting at the king's gate 5:13

C4 Haman's preparation of a gallows for Mordecai 5:14

B5 The King's Exalting of Mordecai 6

C1 The king's discovery of an official lapse of etiquette toward Mordecai 6:1-3

D1 The reason for the king's discovery: Insomnia! 6:1

D2 The king's listening to the official chronicles of the kingdom 6:1

D3 His listening to the account of Mordecai's report of Begthana and Teresh's plot to assassinate the king 6:2

D4 His discovery that nothing had been done to honor Mordecai 6:3

- C2 The king's seeking advice on honoring Mordecai 6:4-9
 - D1 The arrival of Haman 6:4-6a
 - E1 Haman's arrival in the outer court to request the hanging of Mordecai 6:4
 - E2 The king's request to see Mordecai 6:5
 - E3 The king's question of Haman: "What is to be done for the man whom the king desires to honor?" 6:6a
 - D2 The advice of Haman 6:6b-9
 - E1 His false assumption that the king meant to honor him 6:6b
 - E2 His reply to the king: Provision for the honoree of 6:7-9
 - F1 A royal robe from the king 6:8
 - F2 A royal horse
 - F3 A royal crown
 - F4 A noble escort with a proclamation of tribute: "Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor." 6:9
- C3 The king's commanding Haman so to honor Mordecai! 6:10-12
 - D1 The king's command to Haman: "Take quickly the robes and the horse as you have said, and do so for Mordecai the Jew, who is sitting at the king's gate; do not fall short in anything of all that you have said!" 6:10
 - D2 The obedience of Haman: So Haman took the robe and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and led him *on horseback* through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor." 6:11
 - D3 The return of Mordecai 6:12
 - D4 The humiliation of Haman 6:12
- C4 The somber prediction of Haman's wife and friends 6:13
 - D1 Haman's recounting his story
 - D2 The reply of his wife and wise men: "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish origin, you will not overcome him, but will surely fall before him."
- C5 The arrival of messengers to bring Haman to the queen's banquet 6:14

B6 The Debasing of Haman 7

- C1 The expose' of Haman 7:1-6
 - D1 The scene at the banquet 7:1-2
 - E1 The arrival of the king and Haman to drink wine with Queen Esther 7:1
 - E2 The king's asking Esther her request 7:2
 - D2 The impassioned speech of Esther 7:3-4
 - E1 Her plea for the saving of her life and that of her people 7:3
 - E2 Her explanation of the bribe for Jewish extermination 7:4a
 - E3 Her statement that she would have remained silent had the issue been merely one of slavery 7:4b
 - D3 The incredulous query of the king: "Who is he, and where is he, who would presume to do thus?" 7:5
 - D4 The startling revelation of Esther: "A foe and an enemy, is this wicked Haman!" 7:6a
 - D5 The terror of Haman 7:6b
- C2 The execution of Haman 7:7-10
 - D1 The shocked anger of the king 7:7a
 - D2 Haman's begging for his life 7:7b
 - D3 The king's misinterpretation of Haman's plea for clemency 7:8
 - E1 The king's return to the banquet area: Now when the king returned from the palace garden into the place where they were drinking wine,
 - E2 The pleading of Haman: Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was.
 - E3 The fury of the king: Then the king said, "Will he even assault the queen with me in the house?"
 - E4 The fate of Haman: As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.
 - D4 The information from Harbonah: Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who *were* before the king said, "Behold indeed, the gallows standing at Haman's house fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai who spoke good on behalf of the king!" 7:9
 - D5 The order from the king: "Hang him on it!" 7:9

D6 The execution of Haman: So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai! And the king's anger subsided. 7:10

A3 JEWISH POWER 8 - 10

B1 National Self-Preservation 8 - 9

C1 The king's authorizing of the Jews to defend themselves on "Extermination Day" 8

D1 The elevation of Mordecai to power 8:1-2

E1 King Ahasuerus' gift of the house of Haman to Queen Esther 8:1

E2 The king's elevation of Mordecai to the position of the late Haman 8:1-2

F1 Mordecai's coming before the king 8:1

F2 The king's giving of his signet ring to Mordecai 8:2

E3 Esther's setting Mordecai over the house of Haman 8:2

D2 Esther's beseeching of the king to protect the Jewish people 8:3-8

E1 Her initial plea 8:3

E2 Her acceptance by the king 8:4

E3 Her speech 8:5-6

F1 Her request to the king to revoke the laws of Haman to destroy the Jews 8:5

F2 Her personal distress at the prospect of watching her people destroyed 8:6

E4 The king's response 8:7-8

F1 His review to Mordecai and Esther of having hanged Haman 8:7

F2 His authorizing Mordecai and Esther to draft legislation protecting the Jews 8:8

D3 The description of the legislation 8:9-14

E1 The calling of the king's scribes 8:9

E2 The recipients of the legislation 8:9

- E3 The official nature of the legislation 8:10
- E4 The distribution of the legislation 8:10
- E5 The terms of the legislation 8:11-12
 - F1 The authorized action: ...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 8:11
 - F2 The time framework: on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month (that is, the month Adar). 8:12
- E6 The publishing of the legislation in each province 8:13
- E7 The purpose of the legislation: so that the Jews would be ready for this day to avenge themselves on their enemies. 8:13
- E8 The departure of the couriers 8:14
- E9 The publication of the decree in Susa 8:14
- D4 The reaction to the legislation 8:15-17
 - E1 The splendor of Mordecai 8:15
 - E2 The joy in the city of Susa 8:15
 - E3 The gladness of the Jews 8:16
 - E4 The reaction in the provinces 8:17
 - F1 Joy in Jewry: ...gladness and joy for the Jews, a feast and a holiday.
 - F2 Conversion to Judaism: And many among the peoples of the land became Jews, for the dread of the Jews had fallen on them.

- C2 The Jews' defense of themselves 9:1-16
 - D1 The summary of the Jewish victory 9:1
 - E1 The date: The twelfth month (...Adar), ... the thirteenth day
 - E2 The hoped for result: ...when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them,
 - E3 The actual result: it was turned to the contrary so that the Jews themselves gained the mastery over those who hated them.
 - D2 The invincibility of the Jews 9:2-4
 - E1 Their preparation: The Jews' assembly "in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm; 9:2
 - E2 Their invincibility: and no one could stand before them 9:2
 - F1 Their psychological superiority: for the dread of them had fallen on all the peoples 9:2
 - F2 Their governmental support: Even all the princes of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and those who were doing the king's business assisted the Jews, 9:3a
 - F3 The greatness of Mordecai 9:3-4
 - G1 In the eyes of the officials: because the dread of Mordecai had fallen on them. 9:3b
 - G2 In the king's house 9:4
 - G3 In the provinces 9:4
 - D3 The Jews' victory in Susa 9:5-15
 - E1 The summary of their victory: Thus the Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying; and they did what they pleased to those who hated them. 9:5
 - E2 The number of enemies killed in Susa: 500 9:6
 - E3 The identity of the ten sons of Haman killed; the foregoing of any plunder 9:7-10

- E4 The extension of the engagement in Susa 9:11-15
 - F1 The report to the king of the number killed by Jews in Susa 9:11
 - F2 The king's report to Esther: "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men and the ten sons of Haman in Susa the capital. What then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces!" 9:12
 - F3 His asking of Esther a further request 9:12
 - F4 Esther's request 9:13
 - G1 For a one-day extension for Jews in Susa
 - G2 For Haman's ten sons to be hanged [i.e., displayed] on the gallows
 - F5 The king's compliance 9:14
 - F6 The results of the extension (on the fourteenth of Adar) 9:15
 - G1 The killing of 300 additional men
 - G2 The foregoing of any plunder
- D4 The Jews' victory in the provinces 9:16
 - E1 Their killing of 75,000 of those who hated them
 - E2 Their foregoing of plunder
- C3 The institution of the feast of Purim 9:17-32
 - D1 The origins of the celebration of the victory 9:17-19
 - E1 In the rural areas 9:17
 - F1 Victory on the 13th of Adar
 - F2 Rest and celebration on the 14th of Adar
 - E2 In Susa 9:18
 - F1 Assembly (to fight) on the 13th and 14th of Adar
 - F2 Rest and celebration on the 15th of Adar

- E3 The description of the Jewish rural celebration 9:19
 - F1 Rejoicing
 - F2 Feasting
 - F3 "Sending portions *of food* to one another"
- D2 The institutionalizing of the Feast of Purim 9:20-32
 - E1 The first letter: From Mordecai 9:20-28
 - F1 The summary of the letter 9:20-21
 - G1 His recording of the events 9:20
 - G2 His sending letters to all the Jews in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus 9:20
 - G3 His obligating them to celebrate the 14th and 15th of Adar annually 9:21
 - F2 The purpose of the celebration 9:22
 - G1 The memorializing of victory: [B]ecause on those days the Jews rid themselves of their enemies
 - G2 The memorializing of national joy: [A]nd *it was* a month which was turned for them
 - H1 From sorrow into gladness
 - H2 And from mourning into a holiday
 - F3 The procedure of the celebration: [T]hat they should make them days 9:22
 - G1 [O]f feasting and rejoicing
 - G2 [A]nd sending portions *of food* to one another
 - G3 [A]nd gifts to the poor.
 - F4 The Jewish compliance with the decree concerning celebration 9:23
 - F5 The history behind the celebration 9:24-25
 - G1 Haman's scheme to destroy the Jews 9:24
 - G2 Haman's casting the lot (Pur) to destroy the Jews 9:24
 - G3 The king's decree to reverse the fortunes of Haman and his sons 9:25

- F6 The naming of the celebration: Purim (plural of Pur) 9:26a
- F7 The perpetuation of the celebration 9:26b-
 - G1 The impetus for the celebration 9:26b
 - H1 The instructions of the letter
 - H2 Their own experiences
 - G2 The establishment of the custom of celebrating the two days annually 9:27
 - G3 The plan for the celebration: *So these days were to be remembered and celebrated* 9:28
 - H1 The extent of the celebration: throughout every generation, every family, every province and every city;
 - H2 The duration of the celebration: and these days of Purim were not to fail from among the Jews, or their memory fade from their descendants.
- E2 The second letter: From Esther and Mordecai 9:29-32
 - F1 The authors of the second letter about Purim: Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew 9:29
 - F2 The addressees: ...all the Jews, to the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus ... 9:30
 - F3 The addition to the previous customs: instructions for their times of fasting and their lamentations. 9:31
 - F4 The results of the second letter: The command of Esther established these customs for Purim, and it was written in the book. 9:32

B2 International Prominence: Mordecai's Supremacy in Power 10

- C1 The taxation levied by King Ahasuerus 10:1
- C2 The annals of the king 10:2
 - D1 The subject of the annals
 - E1 The king's accomplishments
 - E2 Mordecai's greatness
 - D2 The record of the annals: The Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia.

- C3 The greatness of Mordecai 10:3
 - D1 In relation to the king: "For Mordecai the Jew was second *only* to King Ahasuerus
 - D2 In relation to the Jews: and great among the Jews,
 - E1 and in favor with many of his kinsmen,
 - E2 one who sought the good of his people
 - E3 and one who spoke for the welfare of his whole nation."

Analysis of ESTHER

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

June, 1995, updated October, 2019

WordExplain.com

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)