

# **Esther**

**Providence of God &  
Political Wisdom**



Ultimate Bible  
Picture Collection

# Why Read Esther?

- All scripture is given by God's inspiration for profit.
- No mention of God or the LORD ... but gloriously evident!
- This review is for God's providence and political wisdom.
- God manages all world events in ways you can't imagine!
- God's wisdom under bad politics builds faith, not fear.

# Background

- The Jews had been taken over 600 miles to Babylon.
- The Persians defeated Babylon allowing Jewish freedom.
- Jerusalem was being rebuilt by Zerubbabel & Nehemiah.
- Books of Ezra and Nehemiah tell about Jews in Judea.
- Book of Esther tells this story about the Jews in Persia.



# Faith in a Sovereign God

- If something comes to pass, God commanded it (Lam 3:37).
- The LORD overrules pagan counsel and devices (Ps 33:10).
- Cast lots for random chance! ... the LORD owns it (Pr 16:33).
- The things written in the O.T. were for our hope (Rom 15:4).
- The LORD is our helper – never fear any man (Heb 13:6).

# Method & Purpose

- Let us ask and answer questions about the book's events.
- Let us discover how real saints react to political events.
- A spirit of rebellion and fear has infected the world.
- A spirit of rebellion or fear gets saints about government.
- God is in charge and has shown us how to wisely react.

# Why did Ahasuerus call for Vashti?

- Because God wanted Esther to be queen for this book!
- We answer by faith in this and all matters large or small.
- Every king's heart is in the hand of our great God (Pr 21:1)!
- No government policy or politician is outside His rule.
- He, like any man, wanted to show off her royal beauty.



# Why did Vashti refuse his request?

- Because God wanted Esther to be queen for this book!
- We answer by faith in this and all matters large or small.
- The heart of a woman is no more difficult than a king's.
- She, like any woman, had times of pride and rebellion.
- For an excellent lesson in confirming authority to others.

# Why did his advisors say to fire Vashti?

- Because God wanted Esther to be queen for this book!
- Because they were wise about a bad example by a wife.
- Something should happen to any wife rebelling in public.
- Because every branch of government is under God's rule!
- Example / precedence in authority must be managed.

# Why did they suggest a beauty contest?

- Because God wanted Esther to be queen for this book!
- Because a king gets the best and this was how to find it.
- For you to still believe when a crowd applies for a job!
- For you to get excited about an orphan taking first place!
- For God to pamper Esther on her way to Persia's throne!

# Why was Esther so beautiful?

- Because God made her that way for His glory and use!
- For you to know God can give ... like beauty ... to some.
- For you to know God can take ... like parents ... of some.
- For you to trust and thank God for the way He made you.
- For you to trust and thank God for how He made others.

# Why did Hegai like Esther the most?

- God will move the heart of anyone to help His children.
- Esther did not complain or fuss – she was very gracious.
- Just like Joseph with Potiphar ... the jailor ... and Pharaoh!
- Just like Daniel with Nebuchadnezzar and other kings!
- You do your best and trust God's providence for the rest!

# Why did Ahasuerus pick Esther?

- That king's heart was like putty ... in God's hand (Pr 21:1) .
- God was working His will that He had chosen in eternity!
- Esther also made it putty by using conventional wisdom.
- If you are short on friends, you are likely unconventional!
- Combining graciousness and wisdom is lethal – for love!

# Why did Mordecai save the king's life?

- God arranged the circumstances for him to know a plot.
- God intended to keep this king alive by one of His own.
- God had already planned Haman's demise before his rise.
- God prepared Mordecai for great Persian power later.
- God endeared Esther to the king as well by the plot.

# Why did Haman get promoted so high?

- So he would have farther to fall for chapters 5-7!
- So he would have the influence to plan terrible things!
- So Mordecai could have a large test of his faith in God!
- So you would have an example of God promoting fools!
- The children of this world are wiser than children of light.



# How did Haman get Mordecai to reveal?

- God promoted Haman by Ahasuerus right in Shushan.
- Haman's exalted status exposed Mordecai not bowing.
- Mordecai explained to peers he could not bow as a Jew.
- He would not due to (1) Agagite or (2) divine honor.
- Esther's main plot needed this for Haman to hate Jews.

# Why was Haman so angry to kill all Jews?

- God will arrange all kind of circumstances to test faith.
- A big test of faith to give you big faith needs a big threat.
- Haman exposed his incredible pride and vengeance here.
- The big event of this Jewish history is threat of genocide.
- No matter how furious enemies might be ... trust God!

# What caused Pur to select Adar the 13<sup>th</sup>?

- Pur is the Persian lot that God ruled as much as weather!
- The lot or any random device is under God's rule (Pr 16:33).
- It gave the Jews a year to pray about it and respond well.
- You need not worry about any timing out of your control.
- God is in charge of all time and chance (Ecc1 9:11). Amen!

# Why did Ahasuerus not question Haman?

- Ahasuerus was careful to consult advisors at other times.
- God is in control of all actions, even when men are not!
- It could not have happened if examination had occurred.
- Even when you make a mistake, God oversaw your error.
- A little folly makes wise men stink, so be careful (Ec 10:1).



# Why did Ahasuerus accept Esther's visit?

- God is in total control of king's hearts (Pr 21:1). Get it yet?
- Esther was gracious and had not fussed the last 30 days.
- Esther used God's means to help – prayer and fasting.
- She put on her royal apparel to look her very best.
- She stood and waited; she didn't bust in bawling in grief.

# Why did Esther have two banquets?

- Esther's second banquet let Haman gloat with Zeresh.
- Esther's second banquet allowed Haman to build gallows.
- Esther's second banquet let the king discover Mordecai.
- Esther's second banquet allowed Haman to visit the king.
- Esther's wise use of drama got Ahasuerus totally keyed!





# Why Persian chronicles for insomnia?

- God puts men to sleep, teaches in sleep, and ruins sleep!
- Why not music, wine, a snack, a woman? Chronicles?
- With 127 provinces, how large were daily chronicles?
- How in the world would he find Mordecai saving his life?
- No problem for the God of heaven ... needle in haystack!

# Why did Haman come in right then?

- Haman needed a license to hang Mordecai before lunch!
- How much do you love our God? Can you say, Amen?!?!
- Why did Ahasuerus not explain what he had found?
- Why did Ahasuerus have a brain freeze and ask for help?
- Give God the glory and always trust His just providence!

# Why did Haman involve another officer?

- Haman could have suggested cash, women, tax-free, etc.
- Haman sought for further exaltation of himself upward.
- God will use man's pride painfully against him (Pr 28:26).
- What does it take to get you excited about God's ways!
- Haman imagined as wildly as he could ... for Mordecai!

# Why did Haman's wife/friends kick him?

- Would you say that Haman's day got off to a bad start?
- Wife and friends are for support, right? Why not here?
- When down and hurt, you need a Zeresh ... wrong!
- When down and hurt, you need Mrs. Job ... wrong!
- God used Zeresh against Haman to multiply his woes!





# Why did Ahasuerus go for fresh air?

- He left the banquet in a rage to stroll his garden briefly.
- While he was gone, Haman foolishly chose to beg Esther.
- Esther was on a Persian bed for lunch ... Haman flopped!
- Ahasuerus came back in to find a compromising scene!
- O blessed God, there is not like thee in heaven or earth!





# How did Haman die on his own gallows?

- Why did Harbonah the chamberlain address the king?
- Because God wanted Haman to dangle in his own yard!
- Coincidences? Never! They are truly called providences!
- How much money and time was saved vs. United States?
- God wants to be known for such judgments (Ps 9:16; 35:8).

# What did Ahasuerus take from Haman?

- He took back the ring he had given him to kill Jews (3:10).
- Haman got to have a final royal gesture before dying!
- Ahasuerus now gave the ring to Mordecai on two counts!
- He began that day to honor Mordecai for saving his life.
- He now is told by Esther that Mordecai is her cousin!



# Why did Ahasuerus accept Esther again?

- Because God had fully persuaded this king toward her!
- Because there was legislature passed needing rescinding.
- Since laws of Persia could not be rescinded, then what?
- So Mordecai could write a law “as it liketh you,” he said!
- Because she fell down before him and cried with tears.

# Why did Ahasuerus not revoke the law?

- Persian laws could not be altered or rescinded (1:19; 8:8).
- Why such Persian laws? Foolish? Predestinated? Both!
- If law was only rescinded, Jews' enemies would still live.
- Further legislation for the Jews allowed total elimination.
- He gave Mordecai and Esther to write law as they chose!

# Why did Persia fear Mordecai and Jews?

- The non-Jews in Persia outnumbered the Jews 500 to 1!
- There were two pieces of legislation ... which would win?
- All people were terrified by the Jews ... by God's power!
- All officers helped the Jews for their terror of Mordecai!
- The Jews "did what they would" by this change of hearts!

# Why did the Jews name a holiday Purim?

- Because superstitious Haman had cast Pur to kill Jews!
- Pur is the Persian word for the lot or device for chance.
- This is irony by the church of God against its enemies!
- No matter what power the enemy has, God is greater!
- They still celebrate Purim by the moon around March 1.

# Why was the queen sitting beside him?

- Nehemiah served wine to king Artaxerxes (great shah).
- The king asked him about his unhappy countenance.
- He prayed and then asked the king to go to Jerusalem.
- Nehemiah 2:6 shows: “(the queen also sitting by him,)”!
- Who is this but Esther still serving the church of God!



# God Put This Book in His Divine Library

- There is no mention of God or LORD a single time in it.
- It is inspired scripture as much as *Romans* and *Hebrews*.
- It is given for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction.
- It is given for hope in God's providence over nations.
- It is given for political wisdom living in wicked nations.

# Short Notes on Political Wisdom - 1

- Vashti's fault was against all Persian husbands (1:16-18).
- An example may be needed to support authority (1:19-20).
- Esther used beauty contest for pagan king (2:8-11,15-20).
- Mordecai preserved the life of a pagan emperor (2:21-23).
- Mordecai would not honor Haman due to religion (3:1-4).

# Short Notes on Political Wisdom - 2

- The rise of base men should not surprise (3:1,10; Dan 4:17).
- Law for Jewish genocide brought perplexity and prayer, not arms, militia, sedition, underground, etc. (3:15; 4:1-3).
- Esther only thought of legal means (4:10-11,15-17; 5:1-3).
- Esther had been perfectly patient 30 days (4:11; Pr 25:15).
- Mordecai trusted God above visible means (4:14). Glory!

# Short Notes on Political Wisdom - 3

- Esther's great faith was to risk her life only legally (4:16).
- Esther wisely used her royal apparel for the king (5:1-3).
- Esther used two banquets to heighten concern (5:4-8).
- A matter of life and death makes a difference (7:4).
- Christians should work and live to obtain favor (7:4c).

# Short Notes on Political Wisdom - 4

- Mordecai and Esther used only legislative efforts (8:3-8).
- Esther used four conditions and emotion to appeal (8:5-6).
- When legal means are gotten, use them with zeal (9:5-10).
- When legal means are gotten, use them wisely (9:10b; 8:11).
- It is right to celebrate holidays of deliverance (9:26-32).

# Do Your Thoughts Match Esther?

- The spirit of political rebellion or fear in saints is wicked.
- The situation in America cannot be compared to Esther.
- Even if it were comparable, railing or rebellion is wicked.
- Our God reigns over all and manipulates as He pleases.
- Thoughts of disrespect or rebellion is waste and wicked.

# The Value of Esther

- Read it rather than faithless fretting about government.
- Rejoice in the greatness and glory of our sovereign God.
- See how God manages countless circumstantial details.
- Build your faith with the incredible reversals of fortune.
- Despise and reject political fretting in our perfect setting.

# For Further Study

**Esther Sermons & Outline (July/Aug, 1987) ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/all.php?year=1900s>.

**Dominion of God ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/god/dominion-of-god/sermon.php>.

**Ordinance of Authority ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/authority-ordinance-of.pdf>.

**Living Under Obama ...** [www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/living-under-obama-2.pdf](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/living-under-obama-2.pdf).

**God Bless the IRS ...** [www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/god-bless-the-irs.pdf](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/god-bless-the-irs.pdf).

**Proverbs on Politics ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/topics/politics.php>.

**Today's World ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/today/today.php>.

[www.LetGodBeTrue.com](http://www.LetGodBeTrue.com)