

The Bible
ESTHER



Esther

PURPOSE

To demonstrate God's sovereignty and his loving care for his people.

AUTHOR

Unknown. Possibly Mordecai (9:29). Some have suggested Ezra or Nehemiah because of the similarity of the writing style.

DATE WRITTEN

Approximately 470 BC (Esther became queen in 479 BC)

SETTING

Although Esther follows Nehemiah in the Bible, its events are about 30 years prior to those recorded in Nehemiah. The story is set in the Persian empire, and most of the action takes place in the king's palace in Susa, the Persian capital.

KEY VERSES

Esther 4:14

KEY PEOPLE

Esther, Mordecai, King Xerxes I, Haman

KEY PLACE:

The king's palace in Susa, Persia

SPECIAL FEATURES

Esther is one of only two books named for women (Ruth is the other). The book is unusual in that in the original version no name, title, or pronoun for God appears in it. This caused some church fathers to question its inclusion in the canon. But God's presence is clear throughout the book.

OUTLINE

1. Esther becomes queen (1:1-2:23)
2. The Jews are threatened (3:1-4:17)
3. Esther intercedes for the Jews (5:1-8:17)
4. The Jews are delivered (9:1-10:3)

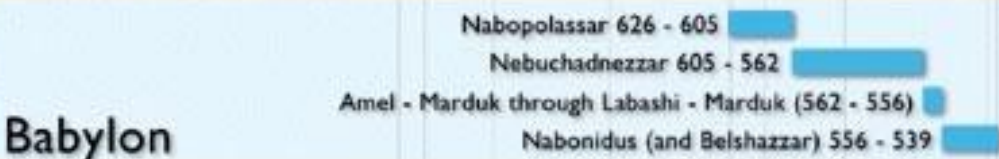
ESTHER

God's providence among His people during . . .

	Hard Times				Happy Times		
	King's Banquet	Haman's Edict	Queen's Courage	God's Deliverance	Mordecai's Edict	Jews' Rejoicing	Shalom!
	Honoring the kingdom		Urging of Mordecai	Mordecai honored		Enemies destroyed	
	Honoring the new queen		Approaching the King	Haman hanged		Feast established	
	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 1-2	<i>CHAPTER</i> 3	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 4-5	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 6-7	<i>CHAPTER</i> 8	<i>CHAPTER</i> 9	<i>CHAPTER</i> 10
Circumstances	Threat and trust				Deliverance and praise		
Feasts	of the king	of the queen			of the nation		
Dates	483 BC						473 BC
Theme	The sovereign accomplishment of God's purposes through ordinary people and apparent coincidences						
Key Verses	4:12-16; 10:3						
Christ in Esther	Pictured in Esther, who was an advocate for her people, even willing to die for them						

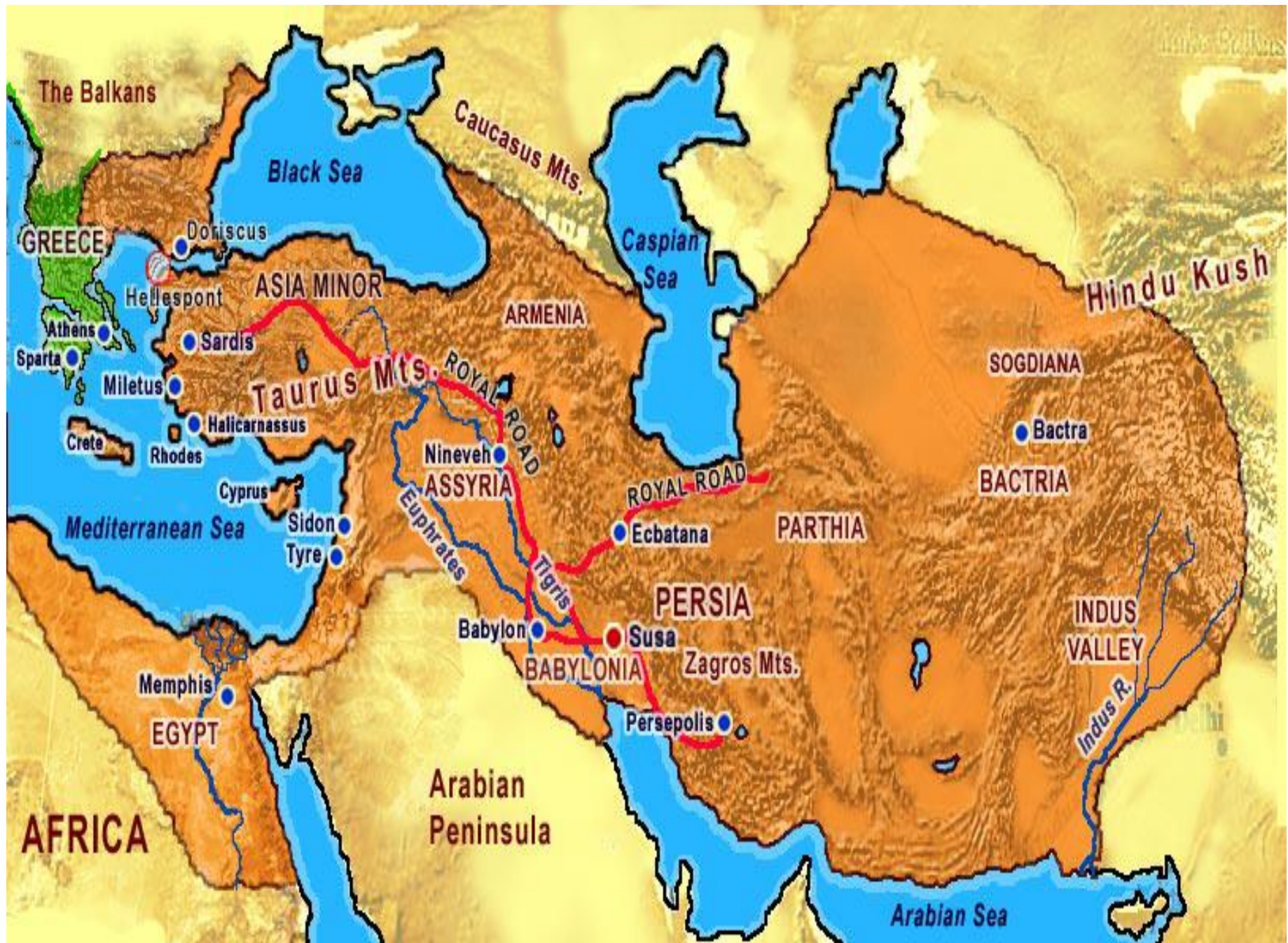
Kings of...

Assyria
Babylon
Persia



Time B.C. 800 750 700 650 600 550 500 450 400

Josiah's reform 623-22
 Fall of Thebes 663
 Sennacherib's first Palestinian campaign, 701
 Fall of Samaria 723/22
 Fall of Damascus 732
 Fall of Nineveh 612
 Return of Zerubbabel 536
 Fall of Babylon 539
 Fall of Jerusalem 586
 Return of Nehemiah 444
 Return of Ezra 457



the Meaning of
Wreim



Commemorating the deliverance of the
Jewish people of the ancient Persian empire
as described in the Bible book of
Esther



**King Ahasuerus (King Xerxes I)
reigned 486BC-465BC**

Application

God is in control. He is sovereign. He works all things according to the council of His will. So rest in the security that He, our God, is in control. So don't be afraid. Because we know who holds the future. So trust Him.