

15 - Bible Overview

Book of Esther

Books of Bible:

The Law: *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy*



Creation, Slavery in Egypt, Exodus from Egypt under leadership of Moses, Wander in the dessert for 40 years, God gave Jewish people the Ten Commandments and other laws to live by as a nation.

History: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther



These books describe the history of the nation of Israel and are divided into two sections: Pre-Exile History and Post Exile History.

Pre Exile are Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. These detail entering the Promised Land and building the nation and finally becoming a monarchy.

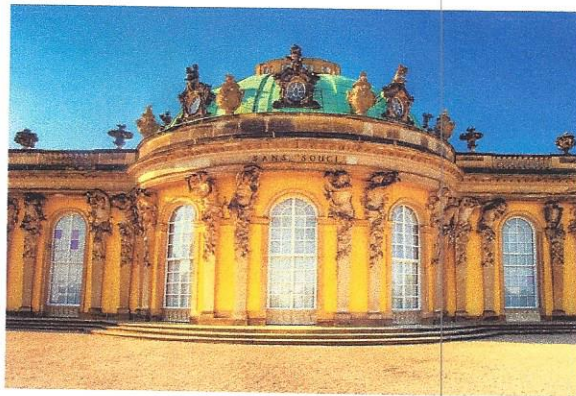
Post Exile books are Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. These books take place after Israel is conquered and the people are disbursed throughout other countries. Israel is left in ruins. Ezra and Nehemiah tell about the first groups of people to return to Israel. They rebuild the Temple and the walls around Jerusalem.

In the book of Ezra we learn that Zerubbabel took the first exiles back to Israel. Ezra oversaw the second contingent's return back to their homeland. The Book of Nehemiah tells how Nehemiah led the third group to build the walls around Jerusalem.

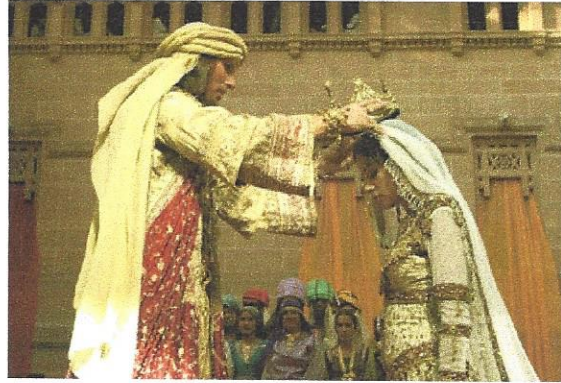
This week we look at the final history book called Esther.

Esther was an orphan being raised by her older cousin. Her family was exiled when Babylon conquered Jerusalem. Babylon was later conquered by Persia. So Esther was a Jew living in exile in Persia.

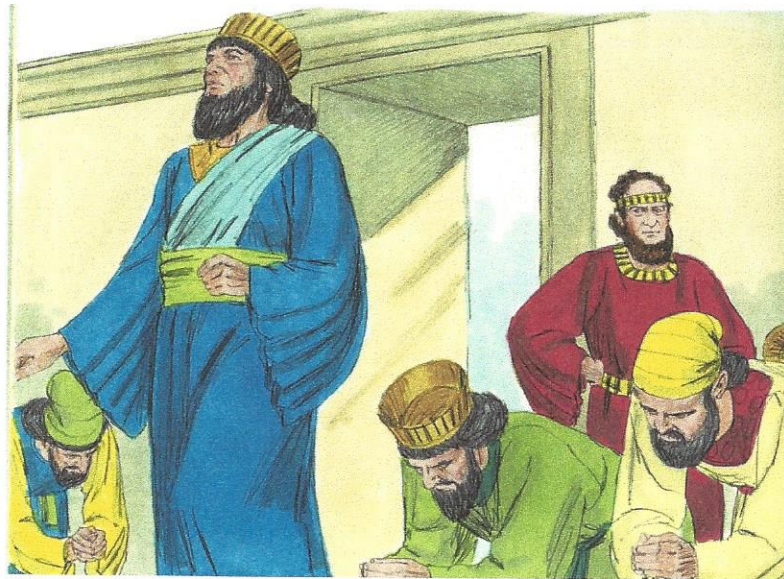
This book tells how a young Jewish orphan girl became Queen of Persia. These events happened between Zerubbabel's return and Ezra's trip back to Israel.



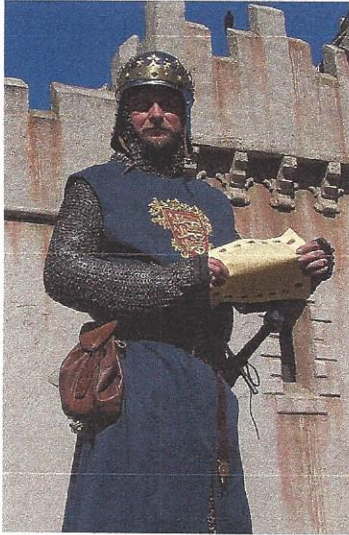
The book begins in King Xerxes palace in Persia. He is having a party and wants his Queen to come and entertain his guests. She refuses and so he banishes her and doesn't allow her to be queen anymore.



The king holds a pageant to pick a new queen. All young women who are not married must participate. The king chooses Esther to be his queen. She doesn't tell him she is a Jew.



There is an evil man who works in the palace. His name is Haman and he is 2nd in Command under the king. He wants all to bow to him and worship him like a god. Mordecai, Esther's cousin, who is a gatekeeper at the palace, refuses to worship anyone but God. This makes Haman very angry,



Haman knows that Mordecai is a Jew, so he convinces the king that the Jews are disloyal to him. So the king makes a decree that on a certain date the countrymen can legally kill the Jews and keep their property and money.



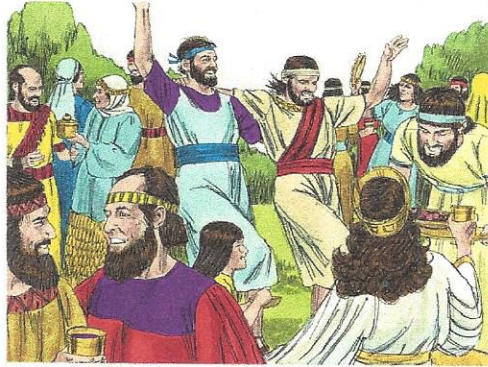
Mordecai gets word to his cousin Esther in the palace about the edict. She goes to see the king - even though it is illegal to do so when he has not called. She is relieved when the king holds his scepter out indicating she can come forward. She asks the king to come to a banquet and also invites hated Haman.



After the first banquet, Esther arranges another one with her husband and Haman. At the second banquet Esther tells the king that because Haman had lied about the Jews disloyalty a law was made to annihilate the Jews. She confesses to her husband that she too is a Jew



The king is so mad that he has Haman hung on the gallows. He also makes Mordecai second in command in the palace.



The king makes another law that allows the Jews to unite and defend themselves. The Jews are saved from annihilation or being wiped off the earth.

DEVOTION

“Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this”
(Esther 4:14b NLT)?

Esther became queen under very unique circumstances. She had no palace experience and she hadn't spent time with the Persian elite. Yet, out of all the single young women in Persia this Jewish orphan girl was selected.

When the king was goaded into making a law against the Jews, Esther was in a position to do something to help her people. At first she hesitated, because the king had not called for her and it was illegal for her to approach the king without being asked to come. In fact, he could have her killed for such a breach of protocol.

Mordecai told her:

....“Don't think for a moment that because you are in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this” (Esther 4:13-14)?

Sometimes God puts us in the right place and time to do His will. Maybe you see another kid ready to walk out in front of a car. You might be there to warn him to stop. A man with a tow truck happens to drive by a stranded car.

He stops to pull the car out of the ditch. Some people call these coincidences, but you should know that God may have put you somewhere to help someone else. Make sure you do what is right.



PRAYER

Help me God to recognize when you put me in a position to help others. When someone is in the right place to help me, let me not only thank them, but You too. For it is not a coincidence, but it is You looking out for me. In Jesus Name, Amen.

My name is _____ I am
_____ years old. I am walking through the Bible with
_____ on this date _____.

FOR A TODDLER

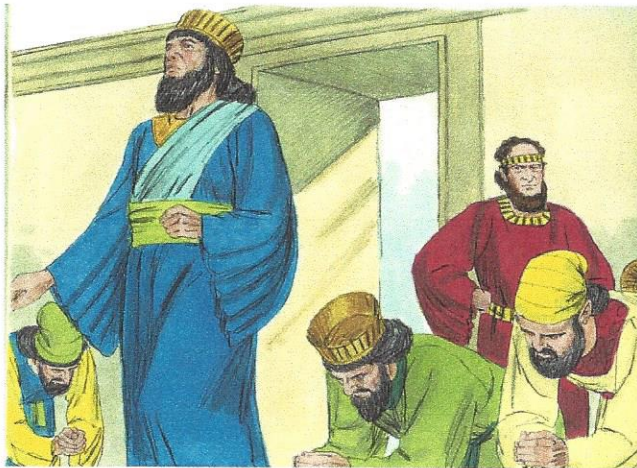
What you need: Nothing extra today

"You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3 NIV).

Let's say this verse together. Do you know what that means?

There was a story about a bad man named Haman. He is in the blue robe in the picture below. He wanted other people to bow down before him and worship him like a god.

Can you point to the men who are bowing to him?



There was one man who worshipped God and refused to kneel down to Haman. His name was Mordecai. Can you find him in the picture?

This made Haman very mad and he tried to kill Mordecai. Even when people say they will hurt us we should not worship another person - only God.

God protected Mordecai and he was not killed.

PRAYER

God, I will only worship you. I will not bow down and worship another person even if he says he is a god. There is no God but You and I will worship only You. Amen.

My name is _____ . I am

_____ years old. I am walking through the Bible with

_____ on this date _____ .