

Esther
Series Introduction and Outline

Introduction

Esther is a rich and very encouraging book

Controversy among teachers, pastors, and commentators

Three most common views of Esther

Historical Fiction

Fictional Narrative

Face-value

Important perspective

Theological Distinctive

The words God and Lord are not found anywhere in the book

God moved in an extraordinary way in the days of Mordecai and Esther

But He did so behind the scenes in a way only the eyes of the faithful can see and understand

Author

Ultimately, we know that God is the author of the Book of Esther

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2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Main Theme is Two-fold

Hope for God's people

Always present in the lives and circumstances of His people

Even—and especially—in difficulties

Festival of Purim

The book ends with the powerful beginning and introduction of the Festival of Purim

List of Main Characters

King Ahasuerus

Queen Vashti

Mordecai

Esther (Hadassah)

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Haman

Outline of the Story

Three main sections to the book of Esther

Prologue—Chapters 1–2

Main Plot—Chapters 3–9

Epilogue 9–10

Key Section of the Book

Esther 4:11–16

The heart of the entire book

Verse 14 being the single most important—or the key—verse of the entire book

Application

Read the Book of Esther

Think about the actions of the main characters

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Consider how you should or shouldn't emulate their behavior in your own life

What Godly/Ungodly principles are they displaying

How can you apply or avoid these principles in your own lives