

September 23/Day 266

- Esther is the only book of the Bible that doesn't mention God, yet we can see His sovereignty throughout it.

Esther 1

Verses 1-4

- Ahasuerus is also known as Xerxes. Ahasuerus is his Persian name and Xerxes is his Greek name. He was King of the Persia (Iran) and the son of Darius.
- According to this passage, was his kingdom large or small?
- Where was his royal throne? Also known as Shushan.
- What is a citadel?
- What did he do in the third year of his reign?
- What kinds of people were invited? It is possible he was gaining support for his intended invasion of Greece?
- How long did this last? How long is this on our calendar?

Verses 5-9

- Where was the seven-day banquet held?
- How was the palace adorned?
- What are we told about the wine?
- Who hosted an additional banquet and for whom?

Verses 10-12

- What was the king's heart like on the seventh day?
- What was his command and why?
- How did he feel when the queen rebelled against his command?
- Persian kings (kings in general) had absolute rule and if one rebelled against him, the penalty was death.
- How would it have looked for the queen to refuse him in front of his guests?

Verses 13-20

- To whom did the king speak?
- In what way did the men say the queen had wronged all the men in the province?
- What was to be written about Queen Vashti?
- Could this be repealed?

Verses 21-22

- Would every person in the kingdom have understood what was written and why?

Esther 2

- Four years have passed since chapter one. Ahaseurus has failed at invading Greece during these for years and now is returning home.

Verses 1-4

- Now that he's home from battle and lonely, he's regretting the edit against Queen Vashti.
- What did the attendants suggest?
- At the king's command, young women would be rounded up and taken from their homes to serve in the harem.

Verses 5-7

- What are we told about Mordecai?
- Who was Hadassah, or Esther, to Mordecai?
- What are we told about their relationship?

Verses 8-11

- Who was in charge of the harem?
- What did he think of Esther?
- What did he do for her?
- What did Esther not disclose and why?
- Why did Mordecai come by every day?

Verses 12-14

- What are we told about the length of time a virgin was prepared for the king?
- How this worked, a new virgin would be brought to the king for one night, then she would live in the second harem the rest of her life unless he called for her again by name.

Verses 15-16

- What did Esther request?
- How was she received by everyone who saw her?
- This is the second time we are told she found favor. Favor is the definition of grace. Who do you think caused her to be favored?
- What is the time reference?

Verses 17-18

- What did the king think of Esther?
- What did he do?
- Why was this third banquet given?

Verses 19-20

- What are we told happened a second time?
- Don't think that because the king crowned Esther, that he didn't continue to use the harem. This was the culture.
- What are we told again that Esther had not made known?

Verses 21-23

- Some scholars believe this planned assassination was because the king chose Esther and not one of the seven princes' daughters, though we are not told in Scripture this is the case.
- How did the plot play out?
- Where was the plot written?

Esther 3

Verses 1-6

- After what events? To find the answer, refer to the last chapter.
- Who is promoted? And we are told his authority extended over whom?
- What did all the king's servants at the gate do?
- Mordecai didn't, why?
- Why did Haman want to kill all the Jews?
- Based on what we've seen so far, did Haman know Esther was a Jew?

Verses 7-11

- Pur is where we get the term "Purim", a Jewish holiday we will see more about later.
- Did Haman tell King Ahasuerus the decree was against the Jews?
- What would Haman even add out of his own treasure?
- What did the king give Haman? This represents authenticity. It's where we get our word, signature.
- What did the king say to Haman? Did he investigate properly before he gave this important power away?

Verses 12-15

- Again, we see the script is written in the languages of all the people in the vast kingdom.
- How were the letters delivered?
- What did the decree say?
- When would this happen?
- How much time did they have?
- What was the king busy doing while this edict went forth?
- What was going on in Susa?

Esther 4

Verses 1-3

- Why did Mordecai tear his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes?
- What did he do in the midst (middle) of the city? Where else did he do this? Did they know him there, based on what we've seen?
- What did the Jews do?

Verses 4-8

- Who told Esther about Mordecai?
- According to the passage, did she know at the time why he was doing this?
- What did he give the eunuch to give Esther? Think about it, how would he have gotten a copy?
- What did he want her to do about it?

Verses 9-12

- What could happen to someone who went before the king without being summoned?
- What would indicate life?
- How long has it been since she had been summoned by him?

Verses 13-14

- How did Mordecai respond?
- What did he say to her in regard to God's sovereignty?

Verses 15-17

- What was Esther's request?

Esther 5

Verses 1-4

- Notice Esther's respectful demeanor. She didn't rush in weeping or screaming, she clothed herself appropriately and acted with respect and wisdom.
- What did the king extend and why?
- Why did he assume something was troubling her?
- Did she tell him right away?
- What was her request?

Verses 5-8

- Who came to Esther's banquet?
- What did they do at the banquet?
- When pressed again, what did she request?

Verses 9-14

- How did Haman feel about being invited to a banquet with the king and queen?
- What ruined his joy?
- What did Haman tell his wife?
- Why did he say he was not satisfied?
- Who else was there to hear Haman?
- What did they suggest?
- When would he make his request to the king?

See you tomorrow.