



BAPTIST CHURCH

The Book Of Esther
For Such A Time As This
“Sermon One— Introduction”
Esther 1:1-2

Introduction

Today and for the next few weeks we are going to take a quick walk through the book of Esther. As we walk through this book of the Bible we will discover biblical principles for life and make personal application.

Scripture

These events took place during the days of Ahasuerus, who ruled 127 provinces from India to Cush.

² In those days King Ahasuerus reigned from his royal throne in the fortress at Susa. CSB

Quote Of The Day

“If Church equals grading the pastor and worship team on how good the show is, let’s save ourselves the trouble of bringing our Bibles to church and lets enjoy popcorn and a Coke.” — Beth Moore

What Beth Moore is saying and I agree is this: The **“Church Experience”** is more than just preaching and singing!

A significant part of the **“Church Experience”** is Personal, it is living out daily the truth of God’s Word in our lives!

A significant part of the **“Church Experience”** is not just what happens on Sunday!

The “**Church Experience**” helps us determine how can God utilize us to demonstrate His love and share the Good News of Jesus Everyday, Everywhere, with Everyone.

To clearly understand the story of Esther we need to know:

The Central Theme Of Esther

The book of Esther is a story that describes how God utilizes individual people in specific circumstances to carry out His plans to accomplish His purpose.

The book of Esther is a story about: Ordinary people who, when given the opportunity, by faith do extraordinary things.

The book of Esther is a story about: Pride, Foolishness, Adversity, Opportunities, Faith, Patience, Bravery, and the Providence of God.

The book of Esther is a story that communicates— we are created “**For Such A Time As This!**”

Esther 4:14 “. . . Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.” CSB

To clearly understand the story of Esther we need to know:

The Context Of Esther

The book of Esther was written during the reign of King Xerxes the son of Artaxerxes sometime between 470-424 BC.

King Xerxes reigned 21 years from 486—465 BC

The author of Esther is unknown. Some historians have suggested Mordecai authored the book of Esther. However, the praise and attention given to Mordecai in the text suggest otherwise. Most likely Esther was

written by a Jewish author familiar with Hebrew customs as well as Persian traditions and government.

The book is named “**Esther**” because Esther had great faith to Trust God and stand before King Xerxes on behalf of the Jewish people.

The story of Esther reminds us that Real People live real lives. Real Life has real moments: moments of peace, moments of prosperity, moments of joy and moments that we will never forget.

Share the story about asking Angela to marry me!

The story of Esther also reminds us that sometimes Real Life is hard! Real Life has moments of pain, moments of adversity, moments of despair, moments of sickness, moments of loss and also difficult moments that are unforgettable.

When life doesn’t make sense, do we turn to God or away from Him? Let the book of Esther encourage us that God is always present. Trust and obey, as Esther did. And watch God silently weave all events for His glory . . . and for our good.”

To clearly understand the story of Esther we need to know:

The Main Characters

King Ahasuerus also known as Xerxes

King Xerxes of Persia was the world’s most powerful monarch who ruled the Persian Empire from 486-465 B.C.

Queen Vashti

Queen Vashti, was the most powerful woman in the world as the wife of King Xerxes. She was also the most beautiful and admired woman in the Kingdom of Persia. However, she was banished from the Kings presence and removed as Queen because she refused to be disrespected and objectified before the lustful eyes of a gloating King and his drunken court.

King Xerxes made a sickening choice to objectify Queen Vashti— before the officials of the kingdom.

To objectify means— to degrade the status of a human being to a mere object.

The Scripture is clear— we are to treat others with respect and dignity.

Jesus said in Jesus said in **Matthew 7:12** and **Luke 6:31** “. . . In everything do unto others as you would have them to do unto you.”

This rule of conduct is commonly known as the “**Golden Rule.**” It's a fundamental ethical principle that summarizes how we are to relate to others in our life.

Parents— Teach your boys what it means to be a Christian gentleman. We should teach our boys how to conduct themselves so they regard women with dignity and respect.

Boys who are taught to respect girls and women become men who do the same.

Women of all ages should be treated with respect and dignity.

The Bible provides guidance on how men should treat women, emphasizing respect, honor, and love. Here are a few key passages that speak to this subject:

Ephesians 5:25-28 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself." NIV

A wedding ceremony and a signed marriage certificate doesn't magically change a man and lead him to love, respect and care for his wife.

Boys who have been trained to respect girls and women are the young men who become good husbands.

1 Peter 3:7 "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers." NIV

Colossians 3:19 "Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them." NIV

Proverbs 31:30-31 "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." NIV

This passage speaks to honoring women for their character and deeds, rather than superficial qualities.

The dominant theme in these passages is one of love, respect, honor, and mutual consideration. They stress that men should imitate Christ's love, which is sacrificial, patient, and respectful, in all their interactions with women.

Parents— Teach your girls what it means to be a Christian lady. Both girls and women should expect to be treated with respect and dignity.

Angela and I taught our boys and Olivia about treating others with respect and dignity.

Olivia and Kyle Prom date illustration

Women of all ages should also dress and act with respect and dignity.

The Bible addresses the topic of appropriate dress and behavior for women, particularly in the New Testament.

1 Timothy 2:9-10 “. . . women are to dress themselves in modest clothing, with decency and good sense, not with elaborate hairstyles, gold, pearls, or

expensive apparel, ¹⁰but with good works, as is proper for women who profess to worship God.” CSB

The apostle Paul emphasizes the importance of modesty and suggests that true adornment comes not from external appearances but from one's actions and character—specifically, good deeds.

1 Peter 3:3-4 “Don’t let your beauty consist of outward things like elaborate hairstyles and wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes, ⁴but rather what is inside the heart—the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.” CSB

Haman

Haman is first mentioned in **Esther 3:1-2**. Son of Hammedatha; chief minister of King Xerxes. Haman was a descendant of **Agag**, the king of the Amalekites. On account of his attempt to exterminate the Jews in the kingdom of Xerxes, he is frequently called “the persecutor of the Jews.”

Mordecai

Mordecai is first mentioned in **Esther 2:5-7**. Son of Jair, of the tribe of Benjamin.

He lived in the fortress at Susa, the metropolis of Persia. He adopted his cousin Hadassah (Esther), who was an orphan child, and raised her as his own daughter. When Esther was made Queen he became a man of influence in the court of King Xerxes. **Esther 2:21** records that Mordecai sat in the king's gate.” One day while sitting at the Kings Gate, he discovered a plot of the eunuchs to put the king to death. Mordecai reported this evil plot to kill King Xerxes to Queen Esther who then told the King.

Because of Mordecai’s actions the plot to kill the King was defeated. Mordecai’s faithful service to the King was recorded in the royal historical record of the king.

Esther

Esther is first mentioned in **Esther 2:7** “Mordecai was the legal guardian of his cousin Hadassah (that is, Esther), because she didn’t have a father or mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was extremely good-looking. When her father and mother died, Mordecai had adopted her as his own daughter.” CSB

Esther became Queen of Persia and God utilized her position as Queen to influence the King, as a result of her actions, the Jews, who were facing annihilation were spared.

The Main Points

As we examine the Book of Esther we will discover principles for life and make personal application.

Here are the principles we will examine in the Book of Esther:

God Is Always Working In Our Life— Overview of Esther

People Are Special— Esther 1:10-12

Good Things Come From Hard Times— Esther 2:5-19

God Provides Opportunities for People to Accomplish His Plans and Achieve His Purpose— Esther 2:21-23

Adversity Is A Hard Thing— Esther 3

Faith Is An Action Word— Esther 4

The Power Of Prayer And Fasting— Esther 4:16-17

Pride: The Destruction Of Fools— Esther 5-6

Faith Is Never Forgotten— Esther 6

God Has Power To Deliver And Destroy— Esther 7-9

Celebration: The Joy Of The Righteous— Esther 9:28

Finish Faithful— Esther 10:3

Conclusion

As we prepare to study the Book of Esther:

I would ask everyone to read the Book of Esther and become familiar with it!

Pray and ask God to give us wisdom to recognize and apply the principles found in the Book of Esther!

Invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to come with you to church and hear from God's Word!