



The Book of Esther

Chapter 1: Vashti's Virtue

Questions from the Text

1. Who was the king during the time of the book of Esther? _____
2. Over how many provinces did he reign? _____
3. Where was his throne (capital city)? _____
4. How long was the feast he gave to last? _____
5. How long was the next feast, for those who lived in the city, to last? _____
6. What were the drinking vessels made of for the feast? _____
7. What was Queen Vashti to wear, in order to show her beauty, when she came before the king and his guests? _____
8. Which of the king's advisors gave an answer to the king and the princes? _____
9. If a law was recorded "in the laws of the Medes and the Persians" what could NOT be done to that law? _____
10. According to the letter sent from the king to the entire kingdom, who "should be master in his own house"? _____

Things to Discuss

1. What can we learn in this chapter about drinking (and excessive partying), and why we should be very careful of those things?
2. Why would Vashti refuse to follow this order from the king? What does this teach us about her virtue?
3. Why was Memucan's suggestion to the king foolish? If it was so foolish, why was it accepted?
4. How does the king's command show a disrespect for women and wives? Why should we honor wives?

Memory Verse

“But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king’s command brought by his eunuchs; therefore the king was furious, and his anger burned within him.” (Esther 1:12)



The Book of Esther

Chapter 2:1-18: Esther the Queen

Questions from the Text

1. Under whose “custody” were the young virgins to be in Shushan? _____
2. Who had carried away the people of Judah into captivity in Babylon? _____
3. What is Esther’s other name? _____
4. Who took Esther as “his own daughter” when her father and mother died? _____
5. How many maidservants were given to Esther because she so pleased her custodian? _____
6. Why had Esther not “revealed her people” (that she was a Jew)?

7. How much time did the young women take to complete their preparations to come before the king and present themselves? _____
8. What was placed upon Esther’s head that showed she was queen instead of Vashti?

9. How did the king give gifts during the Feast of Esther? _____

Things to Discuss

1. What does verse 1 teach us about anger and making decisions without thinking?
2. Why did Mordecai not want Esther to reveal that she was a Jew?
3. What does it mean, that Esther “obtained grace and favor” in the sight of the king?

Memory Verse

“The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.” (Esther 2:18)



The Book of Esther

Chapter 2:19-23: A Plot to Kill the King

Questions from the Text

1. Where was Mordecai sitting as this section of the book begins? _____
2. Who are the two eunuchs of the king who were “doorkeepers?” _____ and _____
3. What did they seek to do to the king? _____
4. When Esther learned from Mordecai of this plot, what did she do? _____
5. When the matter was confirmed, what was done to the two eunuchs? _____
6. In what was this event written? _____

Things to Discuss

1. What can we learn about Esther’s respect for Mordecai from verse 20?
2. Why is it an important detail that Esther informed the king “in Mordecai’s name?”
3. Discuss the punishment these eunuch’s received.
4. How can we see God working through providence in this short part of the book of Esther?

Memory Verse

“Now Esther had not revealed her family and her people, just as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai as when she was brought up by him.” (Esther 2:20)



The Book of Esther

Chapter 3: Haman's Wicked Plan

Questions from the Text

1. Where did King Ahasuerus set Haman's seat? _____
2. Who "would not bow or pay homage" to Haman? _____
3. What had Mordecai told the king's servants? _____
4. Who did Haman seek to destroy "throughout the whole kingdom?" _____
5. What was the name of the first month on their calendar? _____ What was the twelfth month? _____
6. Why did Haman say it "was not fitting for the king to let" the people remain?

7. How much was to be paid to those who did the work of the decree of the king? _____
8. What sealed the decree? _____
9. What four things were to be done to the Jews on one day?
_____, _____, _____, _____
10. What is said of the people's reaction to the decree in Shushan the citadel? _____

Things to Discuss

1. What can we learn from Mordecai's example in this chapter of following God's laws instead of man's laws?
2. What do we learn from Haman's example of how anger can be dangerous?
3. How did Haman trick the king?
4. What was the significance of the sealing a decree with the king's ring?

Memory Verse

"Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily that he would not listen to them, that they told it to Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew." (Esther 3:4)



The Book of Esther

Chapter 4: Esther's Agreement

Questions from the Text

1. "When Mordecai learned all that had happened," what did he tear, and what did he put on himself? _____
2. Why did he only go so far as the front of the king's gate? _____
3. What was the name of the eunuch appointed to attend to Esther? _____
4. What did Mordecai give to him to show Esther? _____
5. What one thing would keep someone alive if they went into the king's inner court without being called by the king? _____
6. How long had it been since Esther—the king's wife—had been summoned? _____
7. What did Mordecai tell Esther would "arise for the Jews from another place" if she remained silent? _____
8. How long did Esther wish for the Jews in Shushan to fast for her? _____

Things to Discuss

1. Why would the king not allow someone with sackcloth to come closer to the palace?
2. Discuss the meaning of sackcloth and ashes in times of grief.
3. In Mordecai's words to Esther (verses 13-14), how do we see his trust in God's providence?
4. Discuss Esther's words of both anxiousness and courage in verse 16.

Memory Verse

"For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14)



The Book of Esther

Chapter 5:1-8: Esther's First Banquet

Questions from the Text

1. What did Esther put on before she “stood in the inner court of the king’s palace?”

2. What did the king hold out to Esther when he saw her? _____
3. What did Esther touch when she came near the king? _____
4. The king offered Esther “up to” what? _____
5. Who did Esther request to come to a banquet that day? _____
6. At this feast, what did the king offer Esther upon her request? _____
7. When did Esther want to have another banquet? _____
8. Who was to be invited to that banquet? _____

Things to Discuss

1. Why did Esther touch the scepter of the king?
2. Why would the king offer up to half the kingdom to Esther, and do so twice?
3. Discuss the wisdom of Esther to not make her “real” request at the first banquet.

Memory Verse

“So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.” (Esther 5:2)



The Book of Esther

Chapter 5:9-14: Haman's Plot

Questions from the Text

1. What two things does the text say Mordecai did not do before Haman? _____
2. What was Mordecai "filled with" against Mordecai? _____
3. What was the name of Haman's wife? _____
4. What three things did Haman tell those in his home about? _____

5. Though he had been invited to two banquets, it all "availed" him nothing, so long as...

6. What did his wife and friends tell Haman to build? And how tall? _____

Things to Discuss

1. What can Haman's manner toward Mordecai teach us about anger and bitterness?
2. What can Haman's words to his wife and friends teach us about pride?

Memory Verse

"Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate." (Esther 5:13)



The Book of Esther

Chapter 6: Mordecai is Honored

Questions from the Text

1. When the king could not sleep, what did he ask to be brought? _____
2. What two eunuchs had Mordecai told about? _____
3. Who had just entered the outer court when the king asked? _____
4. When the king asked Haman what to do to honor someone from the king, what did Haman think? _____
5. What two items did Haman suggest should be worn, and what was to be ridden?

6. What should be said before the one the king is honoring? _____

7. Who, then, did the king tell Haman to show all this honor to? _____
8. When Haman returned home what did he do? _____
9. When his family and friends were told what had happened, what did they predict would happen to Haman? _____

Things to Discuss

1. How do we see God's providence in the king's lack of sleep?
2. How does Haman's reaction to the king's question teach us about pride?
3. Why would Haman suggest the ring, horse, and crest of the king for one to honor?
4. What significance is there in the prediction of Haman's family and friends?

Memory Verse

"So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'" (Esther 6:11)



The Book of Esther

Chapter 7: Haman's End

Questions from the Text

1. At the second banquet, what did the king offer Esther? _____
2. Esther said that she and her people had been sold as what? _____
3. Ahasuerus asked Esther "who would dare presume" such a thing, where? _____
4. What three things did Esther call Haman when she revealed his plot?

5. Where did the king go when he heard about Haman's plot? _____
6. What did Haman do when the king left? _____
7. When the king returned and saw Haman across the couch, what did he think Haman was doing? _____
8. Who pointed out the gallows to the king? _____
9. Where had the gallows been built? _____
10. For whom had the gallows been prepared originally? _____

Things to Discuss

1. In Esther's request, how do we see her grace and respect, but also her courage?
2. Why do you think the king left the room when he found out about Haman?
3. How do we see God's providence in this chapter?

Memory Verse

"Then Queen Esther answered and said, 'If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.'" (Esther 7:3)



The Book of Esther

Chapter 8: Esther Saves Her People

Questions from the Text

1. What did the king give to Mordecai, and what was he appointed over? _____

2. When Esther pleaded with the king, what did he hold out? _____
3. Esther wanted it written to revoke what? _____
4. Why did the king say that Haman had been hanged? _____
5. What was Esther to seal her decree with? _____
6. Why was she to seal it with this? _____
7. How many provinces were sent this decree? _____
8. What four things could the Jews do to those who tried to assault them? _____

9. What two things did Mordecai wear when he appeared in the city? _____
10. What four things did the Jews have when they heard the decree? _____

11. What happened to many other people in the land when they heard the decree?

Things to Discuss

1. What did it mean for Mordecai to be “over” the house of Haman?
2. Why was Haman’s law not simply taken away?
3. What is the significance of the date in Esther’s decree?

Memory Verse

“And in every province and city, wherever the king’s command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday. Then many of the people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.” (Esther 8:17)



The Book of Esther

Chapter 9:1-17: The Jews are Victorious

Questions from the Text

1. On what day and month was the king's decree executed? _____
2. On that day, who did the Jews overpower? _____
3. Why could the people not "withstand" the Jews? _____
4. According to verse 3, who else helped the Jews? _____

5. How many people were killed in Shushan? _____
6. How many sons did Haman have that were killed in the fighting? _____
7. When the king asked Esther what her "further request" was, what two things did she ask?

8. How many more people were killed the next day in Shushan? _____
9. How many people were killed throughout the kingdom by the Jews? _____
10. Throughout the kingdom, the Jews did not do what? _____
11. What did the Jews do throughout the kingdom on the fourteenth day of Adar?

Things to Discuss

1. Why does the Bible say that the Jews were victorious because the people were fearful of them?
2. Why do you think Esther requested a second day of fighting in the capital city?
3. Why did the Jews not touch the plunder, though the decree had said they could?

Memory Verse

"The Jews gathered together in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could withstand them, because fear fell upon all people." (Esther 9:2)



The Book of Esther

Chapter 9:18-10:3: The Feast of Purim

Questions from the Text

1. On the 15th day of the month, the Jews rested, and also made it a feast of _____ and _____.
2. Since they celebrated as a holiday, that did they send to one another? _____
3. On what two days were the Jews to celebrate yearly? _____
4. In addition to presents, what were the Jews to give on these days? _____
5. What was the word for “lot” that was cast? _____
6. Because of that, what was the name of the feast that was begun? _____
7. When Mordecai sent this decree throughout the kingdom, he added words of _____ and _____.
8. Where in the kingdom did Mordecai end up? _____

Things to Discuss

1. Why is it important to notice that the Jews were to give gifts to the poor during these holidays?
2. Discuss the -im ending of “Purim.” (We also see it in words like “cherubim” and “seraphim.”)
3. What can we learn about the importance of tradition and memory from this final section of the book?
4. How can we see God’s providence in the placement of Mordecai in the kingdom at the end of the book?

Memory Verse

“For Mordecai the Jew was second to King Ahasuerus, and was great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen.” (Esther 10:3)