



SUCH A TIME AS THIS



GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds



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This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds to coincide with a lesson series at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL). The material presented in this lesson series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, Dr. Coy Roper, Gleason L. Archer, Irving L. Jenson, Bruce Feiler, H. I. Hester, J. Vernon McGee, David Padfield, James Burton Coffman, Leslie Allen, Timothy Laniak, David Malick, Wade Webster, Ron Williams, Chuck Swindoll, and various other sources.



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INTRODUCTION

Author:

Traditionally, both conservative Jews and Christians consider three (maybe four) possible authors. First, it must be asked "What is known about the author?" There is no doubt that the author was a resident of Persia (not Palestine) because of his intricate details of the city, the royal palaces, and the inner workings of the political structure. He/she also knew Persian customs, Jewish customs, historical data, and much valuable information.

Second, it must be asked, "Who are possible candidates for authorship?" 1) The most likely, author of the book of Esther would be Mordecai. This is referenced in the Talmud, in the works of Josephus and some rabbinical traditions. The only internal evidence used against this theory is the overwhelming praise of Mordecai in chapter 10. 2) Another popular candidate would be Nehemiah. Nehemiah actually served Artaxerxes Longimanus I (465-424 BC) who was the successor of Xerxes (Ahasuerus, 486-464 BC) and may have been employed at the time of the events of Esther. Nehemiah may have known Mordecai personally. He would have known of the events of Purim, would have been familiar with the palace, was well-acquainted with the government, knew the customs, was literate, had access to royal archives, and might have written this book to reassure the Jewish people in Palestine of God's work. 3) Some have suggested Esther might have written her own story. 4) Obviously it could be another source.

Date:

Dating Esther is somewhat difficult. However, it is traditionally accepted as written somewhere around 460 BC. Ezra was written after 440 BC and Nehemiah was written around 430 BC. The book itself states that it was written after the death of Ahasuerus (**Esther 1:1, 10:1-2**) which was around 465 BC. The context of the events in the book occur between **Ezra 6-7** and extended over a decade. Obviously if Nehemiah was the author it would push back the date to around 430-415 BC. Some have also suggested it was written after the reign of Xerxes I but prior to Alexander the Great's rise to power (460-330 BC).

Theme:

The theme of this book is to reveal the history of remnant of the Israelites who had been exiled. The author seeks to provide the historical background of the rise of Esther, the fall of Haman, the plot against the Jews, the background for the feast of Purim, and the elevation of Mordecai. The author seeks to emphasize the ongoing religious significance of the Jewish nation and their relevance in history.

Audience:

The intended audience for this book was the people of Judah returning from the Babylonian exile. Their story is recorded in Ezra and Nehemiah. The Jewish people needed a written record of the origins of the Feast of Lots (Purim). This annual festival commemorates God's salvation of the Jewish people, similar to Passover and Exodus from Egypt. The name Purim, or "lots," was likely given in a sense of irony, because Haman, the enemy of the Jews, had plotted to completely destroy the Jews by casting lots (**Esther 9:24**). This is a practice that is mentioned multiple times in Scripture (described 16 times).

Literary Notes:

It is an historical book, but it is a theological discourse in narrative style. The biblical account aids our understanding of the setting of this book. The original audience of this book would have known that large massacres occurred before this time in the Ancient Near East. The Persians were unsure of what to do with slaves, property, and other related things when they overthrew the Babylonians. It is suggested that the 127 provinces of Persia (**Esther 1:1, 9:30**) could have included over 75,000 cities. The accuracy of the minute details of this book are extraordinary.

Contemporaries of Ezra & Nehemiah:

Great Leaders – Ezra, Nehemiah, Heshbazzar, and Zerubbabel

Prophets - Haggai and Zechariah prophesied during this time period

Kings - Cyrus, Darius "The Great," Xerxes (Ahasuerus), and Artaxerxes

Key Verses:

Esther 1:1, 1:2-4, 1:12, 1:19-20, 2:15-17, 3:4, 4:1-2, 4:5, 4:7, 4:14, 4:16, 5:6-7, 6:13, 7:3, 8:3, 8:9-10, 9:10-11, 9:20-22, 9:28, 9:30, 10:1-2

Outline of the Book:

- I. *The Pride of King Ahasuerus (**Esther 1**)*
- II. *The Providence of God (**Esther 2**)*
- III. *The Plot of Haman (**Esther 3**)*
- IV. *The Proposal of Mordecai (**Esther 4**)*
- V. *The Position of Esther (**Esther 5**)*
- VI. *The Promotion of Mordecai (**Esther 6**)*
- VII. *The Punishment of Haman (**Esther 7**)*
- VIII. *The Protection of The Jews (**Esther 8**)*
- IX. *The Peace of The Jews (**Esther 9-10**)*



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"THE PRIDE OF KING AHASUERUS"

TEXT: Esther 1

Introduction: Strange things happen at parties. Especially if there is royalty involved (ego), heavy drinking (impaired judgment), and wealthy/powerful people (politics). I doubt if any other party in history could equal the one thrown by Ahasuerus in the first chapter of Esther. For nearly six months he celebrated the riches of *his* kingdom, honor of *his* majesty and abundance of *his* possessions. Esther isn't introduced in this opening chapter but we see the groundwork for her introduction. We also learn about the character of the king. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The King's Drunkenness (Esther 1:1-10)

- ◆ Noah (**Genesis 9:20-27**)
- ◆ Lot (**Genesis 19:32-35**)
- ◆ Nadab & Abihu (**Leviticus 10:9-11**)
- ◆ The Philistines (**Judges 16:25-30**)
- ◆ Uriah (**II Samuel 11:1-17**)
- ◆ Nabal (**I Samuel 25:2-42**)
- ◆ Amnon (**II Samuel 13:28-29**)
- ◆ Benhadad & the 32 kings (**I Kings 20:16-34**)
- ◆ The Proverbs (**Proverbs 20:1, 23:29-32, 31:4-6**)
- ◆ Belshazzar, wives & concubines (**Daniel 5:1-31**)

II. The King's Desire (Esther 1:11-12)

- ◆ There was an abuse of position.
- ◆ There was an abuse of policy.
- ◆ There was an abuse of power.
- ◆ There was an abuse of politics.

III. The King's Decree (Esther 1:13-22)

- ◆ Queen Vashti is alarmed.
- ◆ King Ahasuerus is angry.
- ◆ Advisor Memucan is annoyed.
- ◆ The kingdom is appalled.

Conclusion: The pride of King Ahasuerus led to his own disgrace. The party to demonstrate his honor ended up revealing his shame. His drunkenness produced irrational behavior and resulted in a foolish decree. In order to justify his bad decision making the king shamed his wife in front of the entire kingdom. What can we learn from his mistakes? **Proverbs 16:18** says, "*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*" Let's stay on track with God's plan. We must remain humble and follow where He leads us.



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"THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD"

TEXT: Esther 2

Introduction: We take planning seriously. This book reveals an anti-Semitic plan (genocide of the Jews). What we realize is that God is already planning to save His nation from extinction. This plan was in place long before the Jews were even aware of the threat. Interwoven into this part of the story will be the military campaigns of Ahasuerus, the deposed ex-Queen Vashti (and prince Artaxerxes), a grand pageant, and the Cinderella-like story of Hadassah. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Supervision of Esther (Esther 2:1-7)

- ◆ Mordecai took his responsibility seriously.
- ◆ Mordecai took his authority seriously.
- ◆ Mordecai took his guardianship seriously.

II. The Spirit of Esther (Esther 2:8-9)

- ◆ Esther had an attractive spirit.
- ◆ Esther had a humble spirit.
- ◆ Esther had a teachable spirit.

III. The Secrets of Esther (Esther 2:10-11)

- ◆ Esther's mysterious background.
- ◆ Esther's religious background.
- ◆ Esther's family background.

IV. The Selection of Esther (Esther 2:12-23)

- ◆ God's plan to select Esther.
- ◆ God's man (and God's woman) are selected.
- ◆ God's work is set into motion.

Conclusion: The providence of God is clearly seen in this chapter. This story is more than just a providential pageant. It is about how you approach the royal throne. The people had to respect the king and his position. Think about the judgment seat of the Lord. **II Corinthians 5:10** says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." Are you ready to approach that throne?



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"THE PLOT OF HAMAN"

TEXT: Esther 3

Introduction: When God makes a promise, there is no reason to doubt Him (**II Peter 3:9**). From the beginning, He was preserving the lineage of the Messiah (**Genesis 3:15**). Long before Hitler tried to annihilate the Jews there were others who attempted to wipe them off the face of the planet. One such man was named Haman. We previously noticed that God chose Mordecai and Esther to prevent this tragedy. They were in the right place, at the right time, to defeat this wicked plot. His wickedness seems to know no bounds. Haman's genocidal plot makes him one of the most infamous people in history. This is a classic tale of good versus evil (God vs. Satan). Who will win? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Ancestry of Haman (Esther 3:1)

- The formidable foe of the Jews: Haman the Agagite.
- The father of Haman: Hammedatha the Agagite.
- The feud between the Jews and the Amelekites.
- The foolishness of flirting with sin.

II. The Advancement of Haman (Esther 3:2-7)

- Haman requires honor from the people.
- Mordecai refuses to pay homage to Haman.
- The Lord will humble the prideful.
- King Ahasuerus and the Persians were hard hearted.

III. The Anger of Haman (Esther 3:8-15)

- Haman strategizes and formulates a plan.
- King Ahasuerus signs and seals the deal.
- The letters are sent all over the kingdom.
- The kingdom is shaken by the law.

Conclusion: Haman's evil plot was in full swing, but God's providential plan was already in motion. Haman seems on top for the moment, but he was only keeping Mordecai's seat warm. The wicked plot will soon be revealed, God's providential plan will overshadow it, and everything will be made right in the end. *"The LORD says, 'My thoughts are not like your thoughts. Your ways are not like my ways. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts'"* (**Isaiah 55:8-9**). Will you trust in God to take care of you?



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"THE PROPOSAL OF MORDECAI"

TEXT: Esther 4

Introduction: There is much to be said for being in the right place at the right time. The fact that Ahasuerus, Haman, Esther, and Mordecai were all playing roles in the palace is not a coincidence. Esther was in the right place at the right time because it was the providence of God. Esther was promoted to a position of power to keep the Israelites from extermination. She was a woman who had come to the kingdom for just such a time (**Esther 4:14**). What does that mean? How does her role change everything? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Concern of Esther (Esther 4:1-4)

- The decree is signed into law.
- The devastating announcement is made throughout the kingdom.
- The deadly proclamation causes prayer, fasting, and humiliation.
- The disheartened queen sends for Mordecai.

II. The Consideration of Esther (Esther 4:5-14)

- Mordecai stresses the necessity of approaching the king.
- The guards were ready for those who might assassinate the king.
- Esther was worried she might anger the king.
- The Jews feared being annihilated by the king.

III. The Courage of Esther (Esther 4:15-17)

- We need believing men and women.
- We need blameless men and women.
- We need brave men and women.
- We need bold men and women.

Conclusion: Esther's presence in the palace was not an accident. It was the providence of God and Mordecai knew it. God put her there to save His people. He put her there so that she could make a difference. What about you? Why has God put you where you are? No doubt, like Esther, He has put you where you are to make a difference. Follow this sound advice from Mordecai. Realize that you are not a mistake. Understand that you have a purpose. God has placed you here for "such a time of this." **Psalm 103:19** says, "The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all." Will you trust in the Lord? Will you have the strength to do the right thing?



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"THE POSITION OF ESTHER"

TEXT: Esther 5

Introduction: Are you a planner? An organizer? What happens when your plans get interrupted? More than likely it is not a life and death scenario. However, in this chapter it is life or death! Esther trusted that this was what God wanted her to do, so she planned out how she would approach the king (**Esther 4:14**). Esther patiently won the favor of the king before making her petition. She uses her position as queen to influence the king. What will happen? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Anticipation of Esther (Esther 5:1-8)

- ◆ Queen Esther receives the scepter, not the sword.
- ◆ King Ahasuerus prefers the banquet, not banishment of his queen.
- ◆ Haman was full of pride, not pity.
- ◆ Mordecai will bow to God, not to a guy.

II. The Anxiety of Haman (Esther 5:9-13)

- ◆ Haman boasts about his possessions.
- ◆ Haman boasts about his posterity.
- ◆ Haman boasts about his promotion.
- ◆ Haman boasts about his position.

III. The Anger of Haman (Esther 5:14)

- ◆ The resentful purpose of the gallows.
- ◆ The ridiculous height of the gallows.
- ◆ The rancorous nature of the gallows.
- ◆ The remarkable construction of the gallows.

Conclusion: This chapter closes before Esther can accomplish her mission, but things are going well and she will complete her task. Through the providence of God, and her careful planning, everything will work out in the end. However, there is another very valuable thing we must learn from this lesson. **Romans 12:19** says, "My friends, do not try to punish others when they wrong you, but wait for God to punish them with his anger. It is written: 'I will punish those who do wrong; I will repay them,' says the Lord." This is a quote from **Deuteronomy 32:35** and it is echoed throughout the Bible. Godly people reflect the image of God, but we are NOT God. We need to let Him to His job!



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"THE PROMOTION OF MORDECAI"

TEXT: Esther 6

Introduction: Have you ever had memory issues? Have you forgotten BIG, important things? The King had delayed promoting or honoring Mordecai for saving his life. It had been 5 years! In His infinite wisdom, God knew the proper time for Mordecai's promotion. Similar to Joseph, David, Daniel, and even Jesus, things happened in Mordecai's life when the time was right. Mordecai and Esther didn't know God's timetable but they did their best to wait on God (**Esther 4:14**). Things fell right into place when they were needed the most. God's timing was perfect! Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Heroics of Mordecai (Esther 6:1-3)

- ◆ The chronicles showed the quick thinking of Mordecai.
- ◆ The coup of Bigthan and Teresh was avoided.
- ◆ The cleverness of Esther is present in both stories.
- ◆ The coincidence of the King's insomnia was providential.

II. The Honor of Mordecai (Esther 6:4-11)

- ◆ The King prepares a reward for Mordecai.
- ◆ Haman proposes a grand spectacle.
- ◆ Haman plans the honor of Mordecai.
- ◆ Neither Mordecai or Haman are proud of the parade.

III. The Humility of Mordecai (Esther 6:12-14)

- ◆ The King was happy with the decree.
- ◆ Mordecai did not let the honor go to his head.
- ◆ Haman was humiliated in the streets.
- ◆ Esther was about to hold a second banquet.

Conclusion: Pride was Satan's original sin (**Isaiah 14:14**) and it is a favorite weapon in his arsenal (**Genesis 3:6, Matthew 4:3-9, I John 2:15-16**). We need to learn how to resist the devil and trust God's timing (**Romans 8:28**). This promotion might have seemed late on a human timetable, but it was right on time for God. **Ecclesiastes 3:11** says, "He makes all things beautiful in His time." May we all learn from Mordecai and Esther to wait on God. May we learn from the irrational behavior of the King and Haman. If we learn these lessons, the events of our lives will turn out right in the end. We must pursue contentment, faithfulness, and steadfastness. God is in control!



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"THE PUNISHMENT OF HAMAN"

TEXT: Esther 7

Introduction: People cry out for justice. We see rapists, fornicators, murderers, and child abusers slapped on the wrist and released to commit their crimes again. We face racism, prejudice, bigotry, persecution, and discrimination. When will God intervene? When will God provide Divine justice? This chapter shows that God is always right on time! Haman will get what is coming to him. The Jews just had to be patient. Hollywood couldn't script it better! Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Revelation of Esther (Esther 7:1-4)

- ◆ The king is ready for Esther's request.
- ◆ Haman is NOT ready for Esther's revelation.

II. The Desperation of Haman (Esther 7:5-6)

- ◆ Things are progressing according to God's plan.
- ◆ Things are NOT progressing according to Haman's plan.

III. The Contemplation of King (Esther 7:7-8)

- ◆ The king is surprised when he hears the news.
- ◆ Haman is scared when he hears the news.

IV. The Recommendation of Harbonah (Esther 7:9)

- ◆ Haman built the gallows for Mordecai.
- ◆ Haman hung on the gallows for what he did to Esther.

V. The Condemnation of Haman (Esther 7:10)

- ◆ The fate of Haman was sealed as he hung from the gallows.
- ◆ The fate of the Jews still hangs in the balance.

Conclusion: Justice may have temporarily alluded Esther and Mordecai, but they eventually enjoyed this moment. No matter how much the wicked appear to be prospering and the righteous appear to be suffering in this life, the scales of justice will be balanced one day (**Ecclesiastes 8:11-13**). Justice will prevail. Rather than becoming discouraged about the injustice that we see around us, we should realize that not all accounts are paid in this life. God is in control! God is our Judge. God is our Redeemer. God is our Savior. We must trust in Him!



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"THE PROTECTION OF THE JEWS"

TEXT: Esther 8

Introduction: Sometimes our enemies enjoy watching us stress and fret. In fact, there are people that enjoy watching us struggle. They look forward to seeing us in pain or turmoil. Others, thankfully, want to help us out of the mess. They want to help us avoid a crisis. When the king sent out the decree to the empire (authorizing the Jews to defend themselves against those that he had seventy days earlier authorized to kill them), Persian citizens must have been confused as to what the king had in store. This teaches us at least three things: the King was not afraid to admit he was wrong, the King was able to find a loophole in the Persian law, and the King was not willing to sacrifice his queen or her family. The Jews knew that God had acted on their behalf, but they were not out of the woods yet. There is more to come! Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. *The Ironic Position of Mordecai (Esther 8:1-2)*

- ◆ Haman's property was divided.
- ◆ Mordecai's place was elevated.

II. *The Intense Pleading of Esther (Esther 8:3-6)*

- ◆ Esther's crying made a difference.
- ◆ The King's writing made the people nervous.

III. *The Incredible Proposition of the King (Esther 8:7-14)*

- ◆ The king offers an irrevocable command.
- ◆ The people receive an inconceivable deliverance.

IV. *The Intense Proselytizing by the Jews (Esther 8:15-17)*

- ◆ The people were afraid of the Jews.
- ◆ The people were astonished by the Jews.

Conclusion: What an amazing story of providence! Our Father will always be there for us, no matter what, because He loves us (**John 3:16-17**). God was always with Esther, Mordecai, and the Jews. He was providing for His people all along. God kept His promise to watch over them. Do you believe in God's protection? Have you praised Him for His deliverance? Are you resting in His arms? We need to believe that God will always be there for us. What a blessing to have His promises!



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"THE PEACE OF THE JEWS"

TEXT: Esther 9-10

Introduction: We probably take peace for granted. We can't really imagine why our enemies hate us or why foreign nations haven't learned to get along. World warfare may seem like a distant memory of the past or a chapter in our middle school history class textbook. The last war fought on American soil was about 150 years ago! This book was written so that we might remember the process to peace is not easy. What can we learn? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. *The Fear of the People (Esther 9:1-4)*

- ◆ Hebrew prophesies were true.
- ◆ Hebrew past (history) was repeating itself, again.
- ◆ Hebrew people were filled with hope.

II. *The Fight for Survival (Esther 9:5-17)*

- ◆ The Jews did not seek warfare.
- ◆ The Jews did not seek wealth.
- ◆ The Jews did not seek worldly things.

III. *The Feasting of the Nation (Esther 9:18-32)*

- ◆ Fasting was replaced with feasting.
- ◆ Fighting was replaced with fellowship.
- ◆ Fear was replaced with faith.

IV. *The Fame of the King (Esther 10:1-2)*

- ◆ The king grew in power.
- ◆ The king grew in prestige.
- ◆ The king grew in popularity.

V. *The Favor of Mordecai (Esther 10:3)*

- ◆ He was exalted by the King.
- ◆ He was extoled by the people
- ◆ He is an example to all who read Esther.

Conclusion: We long for the peace that God can provide. However, we cannot forget that the major characters in Esther were comfortable with whatever fate God chose for them! Peace or no peace. They were humble and reluctant for the limelight. In the end, God blessed them for trusting Him.

Appendix A
Mordecai: A Type of Christ

| Mordecai | Christ |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Possessed great wisdom (2:10) | Possessed great wisdom (Lk. 2:40, 52; 1 Cor. 1:24) |
| Appointed as a judge (2:19) | Appointed as a judge (Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:16; 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10) |
| Good deeds written down in history (2:21-23; 6:1-2) | Good deeds written down in history (Acts 1:1-2; 10:38) |
| Refused to bow to one other than God (3:2, 5) | Refused to bow to one other than God (Mt. 4:8-10) |
| Put under a sentence of death by a wicked ruler (3:6) | Put under a sentence of death by a wicked ruler (Mt. 2) |
| Day of death selected in advance (3:7) | Day of death selected in advance (Rev. 13:8; cf. John 2:4; 7:30; 12:23, 27; Mt. 26:45) |
| Falsely accused by enemy to obtain permission for execution (3:8) | Falsely accused by enemies to obtain permission for execution (Mt. 26:59; John 18:29-32). |
| Sold for silver (3:9, 11) | Sold for silver (Zech. 11:12-13; Mt. 26:15; Mk. 14:10, 21) |
| Opposed by a very powerful prince (3:10-11) | Opposed by a very powerful prince (Eph. 2:2; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11) |
| Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (4:1) | Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (Isa. 53:3). |
| Spent a period of time fasting (4:16) | Spent a period of time fasting (Mt. 4:2) |
| Hated without cause (5:9) | Hated without cause (John 15:25) |
| Served under a government that used crucifixion to punish offenders (5:14) | Served under a government that used crucifixion to punish offenders (John 19:15-16) |
| Rode through city streets triumphantly (6:7-11) | Rode through the city streets triumphantly (Mt. 21:1-10; John 12:14-16) |
| Abraham's seed (6:13) | Abraham's seed (6:13) |
| Issued laws that could not be altered (8:8) | Issued laws that cannot be altered (Rev. 22:18-10) |
| Brought life to those under the sentence of death (8:9) | Brought life to those under the sentence of death (John 10:10; 20:31) |
| Clothed in purple (8:15) | Clothed in purple (John 19:5) |
| Brought a new joy (8:15) | Brought a new joy (John 15:11) |
| Grew in favor and became greater and greater (9:4) | Grew in favor and became greater and greater (Lk. 2:52) |
| Exalted to a position of great authority (9:29; 10:2) | Exalted to a position of great authority (Phil. 2:9-11) |
| Left words of peace and truth (9:30) | Left words of peace and truth (John 14:26-7; 16:13, 33) |
| Sought the wealth of others (10:3) | Sought the wealth of others (2 Cor. 8:9) |

Appendix B
Esther: A Type of Christ

| Esther | Christ |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Had someone who prepared the way for her named Vashti (Est. 1). Vashti didn't know that she was preparing the way. | Had someone who prepared the way for him named John (Mt. 11:7-15). John knew that he was preparing the way. |
| Was raised by a godly man other than her father (Est. 2:5-7). Mordecai loved her and she obeyed him (Est. 2:10-11). | Was raised by a man other than His Father (Mt. 1:18-25). Joseph loved Jesus and Jesus was subject to Joseph and Mary (Lk. 2:51). |
| Underwent an elaborate test to establish her purity (2:12). Twelve months to make sure she was not pregnant before going in unto the king. She passed the test. | Underwent an elaborate test to establish His purity (Mt. 4:1-11). He was found to be perfect (Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22). |
| Was come to the kingdom for just such a time (Est. 4:14). Joseph saved his people from starvation and she saved her people from extermination. | Was born when the fullness of time was come (Gal. 4:4; Dan. 2). The Babylonians gave the synagogue, the Medes & Persians gave a respect for law and order, the Greeks gave a universal and expressive language, and the Romans gave freedom of travel and communication. |
| Increased in favor in the sight of God and man (Est. 2:9, 17). | Increased in favor in the sight of God and man (Lk. 2:52; 5:1-3; Mt. 3:17; 17:5). |
| Had to overcome a powerful enemy named Haman (Est. 3:1, 10; 7:6). Haman fell because of pride (Est. 3:5). | Had to overcome a powerful enemy named Satan (Gen. 3:15; Rev. 13:8; 1 Cor. 15:17; Rom. 3:23). Satan fell because of pride (1 Tim. 3:6). |
| Was sold along with her people for ten thousand talents of silver (Est. 3:9). The silver went back to the one with whom the deal was struck. | Was sold for thirty pieces of silver (Mt. 26:15; 27:3, 9). The silver went back to the ones with whom the deal was struck. |
| Was willing to lay down her life for her people (4:11, 16). Demonstrates her love. | Was willing to lay down His life for us (1 John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8; Heb. 2:9; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Eph. 5:25). Demonstrates His love. |
| Sought another way to deliver her people but submitted to the will of God (Est. 4:11-12, 13-16). | Sought for the cup to pass from Him but was willing for God's will to be done (Mt. 26:39; Heb. 5:7-9). |
| Accepted the role of an advocate or intercessor (Est. 5:1-2). She had sympathy for her people and influence with the king. | Accepted the role of an advocate or intercessor (1 John 2:1-2). He has sympathy for us and influence with God (Heb. 4:15; Mt. 3:17; 17:5). |
| Brought life to those under the sentence of death (Est. 8:16-17). | Brought life to those under the sentence of death (John 20:30-31; Rom. 6:23; Jam. 1:13-15). |
| Nullified the law that was against her people (Est. 3:13; 8:4-6). The old decree still existed but was robbed of its force as a law. | Nullified the law that was against His people (Col. 2:14; Eph. 2:15; Heb. 10:4). The Old Testament still exists but is robbed of its force as a law (Rom. 7:3-4). |

Appendix C

Satan & Haman, Father & Son (John 8:44)

| HAMAN | SATAN |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Hated God's people and wanted to completely destroy them (Est. 3:1, 9; 4:7-8; 7:4) | Hates God's people and wants to completely destroy them. |
| Fell from high position because of pride (Est. 5:11-12; 6:6) | Fell from high position because of pride |
| Was extremely powerful, but not all powerful (Est. 3:1; Job 1) | Is extremely powerful, but not all-powerful |
| Sought for men to worship him (Est. 3:2) | Seeks for men to worship him |
| Used the love of money to secure his purposes (Est. 3:9; 4:7) | Uses the love of money to secure his purposes |
| Was a slanderer of brethren (Est. 3:8) | Slanders brethren |
| Was an enemy of God's people (Est. 3:10; 7:6). | Is the enemy of God's people (1 Pet. 5:8). |
| Used a king to pass laws that hurt God's people (Est. 3:8). | Uses kings (rulers) to pass laws that hurt God's people |
| Sought to destroy young and old without mercy (Est. 3:13, 15; 5:14) | Seeks to destroy young and old without mercy |
| Had victory snatched from him at the last moment (Est. 6:1) | Had victory snatched from him at the last moment |
| Fell to the seed of the Jews (Est. 6:13) | Fell to the seed of the Jews – Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:16). |
| Disguised his schemes and actions (Est. 7:5) | Disguises his schemes and actions |

Appendix D

Comparisons and Contrasts Between the Feast of Purim & The Lord's Supper

| THE FEAST OF PURIM | THE LORD'S SUPPER |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A memorial feast for Jews (Est. 9:28). | A memorial feast for Christians- I Cor.11:24 |
| Instituted by Mordecai (Esther 9:20-21). | Instituted by Jesus-1 Cor. 11:23 |
| To be observed annually -The fourteenth and fifteenth day of Adar (Est. 9:21. 27). | To be observed weekly -The First Day of the Week (Acts 20:7; <i>kata</i> 1 Cor.16:1-2). |
| To be observed throughout the provinces of Persia (world ruling empire-Est. 9:28) | To be observed throughout the world (Mt. 28: 18-20) |
| To be observed by Jews in the kingdom of Persia (Est. 9:28-29) | To be observed by those in the kingdom of God (Mt. 26:29). |
| Recalls the defeat of Haman-Esther 9:24-25 | Recalls the defeat of Satan (Genesis 3:15). |
| To commemorate the death of the Jew's enemy -Haman (Esther 9:24-25) | To commemorate the death of Man's Friend -Jesus (1 Cor. 11:26). |
| A common meal (Est. 9: 18, 22) | Not a common meal (1 Cor. 11:21-22). |
| Rowdy Observance -Booing, hissing, stomping, shouting, and shaking of rattles when Haman's name is read. | Quiet, orderly observance (1 Cor. 14:40) |
| Called the Feast of Esther in secular history | Called the Table (feast, supper) of the Lord in sacred history (1 Cor. 10:21; 11:20) |
| Called Mordecai's day in secular history | Called the Lord's Day in sacred history-(Rev. 1: 10) |
| Involved the giving of gifts from man to man (Est. 9:19, 22) | Involves the ultimate gift from God to man (John 3: 16) |
| Old law robbed of force by giving of new law (Est. 9: 24-25) | Old law robbed of force by giving of new law (Col. 2: 14; Eph. 2:15) |
| A day of gladness because victory and a new life were given (Est. 9: 18) | A day of gladness because victory and a new life were given (John 20:31; 1 Cor. 15:58) |