

Esther: God Behind the *Seen*

Introduction

Five books that are found together in the third division of the Hebrew Bible are called the Megilloth (“Scrolls”): Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes and Esther. Esther is usually the last of the five, probably because it is read during the Feast of Purim, the last festival of the Jewish year. The book of Esther is called *the* Megillah (the “Scroll”) by Jewish readers because of its immense popularity. Esther is one of two OT books named for a woman, the other being Ruth, and one of several not quoted in the NT. It is the only book in the Bible that does not mention God.

I. The Author—Many have suggested Ezra, Nehemiah, or Mordecai; however, all that can be said is that the identity of the human author remains unknown.

II. The Audience—The returned remnant in Israel.

III. The Aim—To explain the origin of the Feast of Purim, justify its celebration and regulate its observance, to further develop the “seed theme,” that is, to show how Satan relentlessly schemes to exterminate Abraham's seed, but how God vigilantly protects them from extinction, and to reveal God’s providential care of His people.

IV. The Arrangement

The Book of Esther					
Focus	Grave Danger			Great Deliverance	
Divisions	Esther's Exaltation	Haman's Cunning Plot	Haman's Humiliation	Mordecai's Exaltation	
	1	2 3	4 5	7	8 10
Topics	Feast of Ahasuerus		Fast of Mordecai		Feast of Esther
	Exaltation		Persecution		Preservation
Place	Persia				
Time	About 10 Years (483-473 B.C.)				
Author	Ezra / Nehemiah				

ESTHER AT A GLANCE				
Focus	Threat To The Jews		Triumph Of The Jews	
Reference	1:1	2:21	5:1	8:4
Division	Selection Of Esther As Queen	Formulation Of The Plot By Haman	Triumph Of Mordecai Over Haman	Triumph Of Israel Over Her Enemies
Topic	Feasts Of Ahasuerus		Feasts Of Esther And Purim	
	Grave Danger		Great Deliverance	
Location	Persia			
Time	10 Years (483–473 B.C.)			

Theme: God's providence
 Key Verses: 4:14-16
 Key Word: Jew (51 times)

V. The Analysis

VI. The Application

VII. The Assignment