

Old Testament Introduction

The Book of Esther

Jerry Akers

INTRODUCTION

- 1) The Book of Esther is the last book of the _____ section of the Old Testament.
- 2) The Book of Esther is one of two books in the Bible named after a _____.
 - Ruth was a Gentile woman who married a _____ man.
 - Esther was a Jewish woman who married a _____ man.
- 3) The book takes its name from its principle female character whose Hebrew name "*Hadassah*" (2:7) means _____. At some point, "*Hadassah*" was given the Persian name Esther, which means _____.
- 4) The story of Esther is one of the most beautiful stories in all of literature. It is an amazing story of God's providential protection of those Jews who did not return from _____. This book shows how God's chosen people were spared extermination (*genocide*).
- 5) The _____ of God does not occur in the book of Esther, but the _____ of God is clearly manifested. Even though the name of God is not mentioned in it, no book of the Bible teaches God's _____ more forcefully.

AUTHORSHIP

- 1) **The Traditional view:** Authorship is _____.
The author was probably a Jew living in Persia during the latter half of the fifth century. _____ may have been the writer since he is said to have kept records (**See 9:20**). It is also possible that either _____ or Nehemiah wrote the book based on similarities in the writing styles.
- 2) **The Critical view:** Critics deny the historicity of this book. It has been labeled as a "*historical* _____."

RECIPIENTS

Unlike the other post-exilic books, Esther was written to the Jews who did not return to the land from captivity. Apparently, many godly Jews chose not to return to the land. The Book of Esther shows that God exercised His _____ care over His people even though they were not a part of the remnant who returned to the land.

DATE OF WRITING

Chronologically, the Book of Esther falls somewhere between chapters 6 and 7 of Ezra and was probably written between _____ B. C. and _____ B. C.

PURPOSE OF BOOK

- The historical purpose of Esther is to explain the origin and purpose of the important Feast of _____. (**3:6-7; 9:26ff**)
- The doctrinal purpose of Esther is to show the providential care of God for His own people.
- The book also presents Esther as a beautiful picture of Christ.
"Both put themselves in the place of _____ for their people but received the scepter of the King's approval (5:1ff)."

THEME OF THE BOOK

The reality of Divine _____.

OUTLINE

- I. How the Plot was Formed **1-3**
- II. How the Plot was Fought **4-5**
- III. How the Plot was Foiled **6-10**