

OUTLINE OF ESTHER 1

Chapter Title: Vashti's Demise

- The rebellion and dethroning of the Gentile queen
- I. (v1-9) Three Great Feasts in the Kingdom
 - A. (v1-4) A Feast for the Provinces: Peace in the Kingdom
 - B. (v5-8) A Feast for the Palace: Prosperity in the Kingdom
 - C. (v9) A Feast for the Women: Problems in the Kingdom
- II. (v10-12) The Great Failure of the Queen
 - A. (v10-11) The Desires of the King
 - B. (v12) The Disobedience of the Queen
- III. (v13-22) The Grand Finale of the Queen's Disobedience
 - A. (v13-18) The End of a Marriage
 - B. (v19-22) The End of a Queen

TIME LINE OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER

The story of Esther takes place during the 20 years of "silence" between Ezra 6 (the rebuilding of the temple) and Ezra 7 (the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the walls).

- 536 BC: (Ezra 1.1-4) Cyrus, king of Persia, orders the return of Israel and the rebuilding of the temple (after 70 years of captivity).
- 521 BC: (Ezra 6.14) Ahasuerus (Darius Hystaspes) becomes king of the Medo-Persian Empire after Cyrus.
- 519 BC: (Esther 1.3) The history of the Book of Esther begins in the third year of Ahasuerus's reign.
- 516 BC: (Ezra 6.15) The Jews finish the Temple in Jerusalem between Esther chapters 1 and 2 (during the reign of Darius/Ahasuerus).
- 516 BC: (Esther 2.12) Ahasuerus's search for a new queen begins that same year.
- 515 BC: (Esther 2.16) Esther marries Ahasuerus in the seventh year of his reign.
- 509 BC: (Esther 10) The history of the Book of Esther ends.
- 464 BC: (Ezra 7.1, 7 cf. 6.14) Artaxerxes becomes king after Ahasuerus.
- 457 BC: (Esther 7.1-7) Ezra leads a second group of Jews back to the land in the seventh year of the reign of Artaxerxes.

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