

Outline of Esther	
1-4	Threat To The Jews Grave Danger
5-10	Triumph Of The Jews Great Deliverance

Author

The writer does not identify himself. He was familiar with Persian culture and literature (2:23; 10:2). He wrote as though he was an eyewitness of the events recorded.

Background

The book of Esther is thoroughly Gentile in atmosphere, customs, and even phraseology. The Feast of Purim commemorates this event. It has always been meticulously observed by the Jew to this day. In Ezra and Nehemiah we see God's ways with those who returned. In Esther we see God's dealings with the vast majority who remained in exile. Mordecai was a brave man, but his concealment of his Jewish ancestry at first (Es.2:10) seems to indicate he was more opportunistic than devout.

Providence

The word "providence" means 'foresight coupled with activity'. Our word comes from Latin (*pro video*) and means 'to see the affairs of life before they occur'. God alone is able to act on the basis of foreknowledge. People can not exercise providence because we have very limited powers of foresight.

No book of the Bible teaches God's

ESTHER

God's providential care in preserving Israel even though they were not actively concerned about returning to Jerusalem and appear spiritually unaware of God's care. Even in her unbelief Israel has not been forgotten by God.

providence more forcefully than Esther. Though the name of God is not in the book, the finger of God is, directing minute events.

He dealt with the two realms were different. Notice one contrast, in the exile He arranges the marriage of Esther to a

HISTORY

BOOK 17
Es.
ESTHER
10 CHAPTERS

God's Providence in Esther					
King's Banquet	Haman's Edict to Destroy all Jews	Esther's Courage	God's Deliverance	Mordecai's Edict	Jews Rejoicing and Victory
Esther as Queen	Conspiracy	Urging of Mordecai	Mordecai Honored	Vindication	Israel over her enemies
Mordecai Reveals Plot		Esther Approaches the king	Haman Hanged		Feast of Purim Established
CHAPTERS 1-2	CHAPTER 3	CHAPTERS 4-5	CHAPTERS 6-7	CHAPTER 8	CHAPTERS 9-10

Even though the people do not acknowledge God's presence, He is always at work. God's providence works in harmony with man's freedom. It never coerces people. They make their own decisions. God is great enough to give people genuine freedom and yet cause things to turn out the way He wants them to.

The Exiles and the Returning Few

Most of the Jews in exile did not return to their homeland even though the law (Du.28) and the prophets (Is.48:20; Je.50:8; 51:6) encourage them to do so.

At that time the people of God were found in two realms, the exile and those in the land. Though the saving grace of God was the same toward all, the principles upon which

heathen king. In the land, He teaches them through Ezra, to divorce their foreign wives. Also, for the prophetic promise of Messiah's coming to be fulfilled, the house of God, Jerusalem and Bethlehem must be rebuilt (Is.9:1,6; Mi.5:2-4). The Jews in exile lived their lives, and God did a work through them. Both the exiles and those that returned make a difference with God.

 **CHRIST IN ESTHER**

- The book of Esther shows how God, through providence, worked through unbelief (by staying in exile) and still prevented Satan from destroying the lineage of the Messiah, namely, Jesus Christ.