

### THE JEWS' DELIVERANCE FROM EXTERMINATION.

- A. The Jews return from Babylon to Jerusalem in 536BC.  
The Temple was rebuilt in 536-516BC.
- B. Esther, a Jewess, became Queen of Persia in 478BC.  
She saved the Jews from massacre in 473BC.
- C. Ezra went from Babylon to Jerusalem in 457BC.  
Nehemiah rebuilt the Wall of Jerusalem in 444BC.
- D. Thus, Esther appeared about 40 years after the temple was rebuilt, and about 30 years before the Wall was completed. It would seem that Esther made Nehemiah's work possible.
- E. Esther's marriage to the King gave the Jews tremendous prestige. There is no telling what might have happened to the Jews had not Esther used her position for her people.
- F. Without a Hebrew people and Israelite nation there could not have been a Messiah given to a lost world. In this way, Esther played a very valuable role in the coming of Christ.
- G. One of the most interesting things about this OT book is that it is the only book in the Bible not to mention the name of God, or the Lord, or the Christ anywhere. Although some have used this fact to discount the book as being canonical, it has its rightful place in the Bible.

### CHAPTER BY CHAPTER NOTES.

- A. Chapter 1.
  1. "Ahasuers" was another name for Xerxes, who ruled Persia from 485-465BC. He was one of the most illustrious monarchs of the ancient world.
  2. Archaeological Note: Shushan (Susa) was located 200 miles east of Babylon and was the winter home of the Persian kings. A French archaeologist (1884-86) located many things spoken of in the book:
    - a. The king's gate (4:2).
    - b. The inner court (5:1).
    - c. The outer court (6:4).
    - d. The palace garden (7 :7).
    - e. One of the dice or "Pur" (3:7).
- B. Chapter 2.
  1. Ahasuerus died 13 years later. Esther, no doubt, lived far into the reign of her stepson Artaxerxes; and, as queen-mother, may have been a person of influence in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah.
- C. Chapters 3-7:
  1. Haman wanted to kill all the Jews in all the provinces (3:12-13). When Esther went in to intercede with the king on behalf of her people, his cordiality (5:3), showed that, even though she had been his wife for 5 years, he still adored her.
  2. The outcome was that Haman as hanged on the very gallows he had built to hand Mordecai. Mordecai, Esther's cousin, was given Haman's political position in the government.
  3. Some feel that the name of God is not mentioned in the book, because it may have been copied from Persian records. Yet, God's providential care of His people is nowhere more evident.
- D. Chapter 8-9:
  1. Since the decree of a Persian king could not be changed (8:8; Dan. 6: 15), the decree to massacre the Jews could not be reversed. Esther persuaded the king to issue another decree authorizing the Jews to resist and slay all who attacked them. Thus, Esther saved the Jewish race from annihilation.
  2. Esther was not only beautiful, but wise. We admire her for her patriotism, bravery, and tact.

E. Chapter 10.

1. Mordecai was great in the king's house. He became greater and greater in fame (934; 10:3).
2. With Esther the Queen and Mordecai the Prime Minister they became the real "heart and soul" of the Persian Empire under Xerxes.
3. Like Joseph in Egypt, and Daniel in Babylon, Mordecai and Esther were in Persia.