

**Series: You Asked for It!**

**Title: Why is Esther in the Bible?**

**Text: The Entire Book of Esther**

**The story of Esther:** how one woman, through the providence of God, saved the Jews from genocide.

### **I. The Scene:**

**(Esther 1:1-9)**

Ahasuerus calls a six-month war strategy session, 483 B.C. to make his final preparations for the invasion of Greece. The 6-mo summit ends with a 7-day banquet.

**(Esther 1:10-12)** On day 7 of the feast, Ahasuerus, decides he wants to put his wife, Queen Vashti, on display. She Refuses. Ahasuerus is furious.

**(Esther 1:13-18)** The men feared the queen's action would start a woman's liberation movement.

**(Esther 1:19-20)** Ahasuerus demotes Vashti.

### **II. The Search:** Empire-wide beauty contest.

**(Esther 2:1-4)** He announces he's going to get a new queen.

**(Esther 2:5-7)** Introduce Mordecai, & Esther

**(Esther 2:8-14)** A Year of Beautification

**(Esther 2:15-18)** Esther's Cinderella Story

**(Esther 2:10, 19-20)** Esther keeps her Jewishness a secret.

**(Esther 2:21-23)** Mordecai saved the Emperor's Life.

### **III. The Slanderer:** Haman.

**(Esther 3:2, 5-6)** **The Hostility Erupts**

That feud settled in his heart deeply.

**(Esther 3:7-15)** **Haman hatches his plan to the King.**

Haman proposed the Jews were a threat to be eliminated.

### **Iv. The Situation**

**(Esther 4:1-9)** Mordecai informs Esther of the Plot.

**(Esther 4:10-13)** No one went before the king without a personal invitation - killed on the spot.

**(Esther 4:13-14)** The Famous Verse of the Book of Esther.

**(Esther 4:15-17)** They go to God, before the King.

### **V. The Solicitation**

**(Esther 5:1)** She then approaches the throne.

**In this moment, Esther is a type of Christ.**

Willing to lay down her life for her people.

(Jn 10:15)(Jn 10:17)(Jn 15:13)(1 Jn 3:16)

**(Esther 5:2-5)** Esther is received & asks for a banquet

**(Esther 5:6-12)** This is banquet number one.

Haman thought he was big stuff.

The King agreed with his request to obliterate the Jews,

The queen invited him to two exclusive banquets.

**(Esther 5:9b, 13-14)** Haman thinks up the Final Solution.

## **VI. The Sleeplessness:**

**(Esther 6:1-3)** Ahasuerus wants to reward Mordecai

**(Esther 6:4-10)** God obviously loves Irony!

**(Esther 6:12-14)** Haman is on the wrong side of this issue.

## **VII. The Showdown:**

**(Esther 7:1-4)** Esther Lays out the Problem.

**(Esther 7:5 & 7)** The King is Furious

**(Esther 7:6-8)** Haman pleads for His Life.

**(Esther 7:9-10)** Haman is hanged.

## **VIII. The Spoils:**

**(Esther 8:1-6)** Esther Pleads for Deliverance of Her People.

**(Esther 8:11-12)** Ahasuerus issues another decree.

## **IX. The Salvation:**

**(Esther 9:3-4)** Word spread Esther was a Jew also.

He decreed the Jews could defend themselves.

**The day came – doomsday – March 7, 473 B.C.**

The Jews defended themselves.

75,000 of the enemies of the Jews were slain.

**(Esther 9:23-28)** It's called the Feast of Purim.

It's the Jewish Thanksgiving Holiday.

## **Where is God in the book of Esther?**

The real hero is not Esther, Mordecai, or Ahasuerus.

The real power behind the story, is God.

His Hand of Providence is manifest in every tiny detail.

## **God literally thunders through the book of Esther.**

Yet There are no miracles in the book of Esther, but the whole thing is a miracle of divine Providence.

## **The message to Us is:**

Remember that the divine Architect is ordering every detail.

## **God Sees every part of your life.**

God Takes Notice of Every part of your life.

God is Working in every part of your life.

God is going to consistently work until we meet Jesus.

(Phil 1:6)

## **If you are Him, He is accomplishing His perfect will.**

We can rest in that. (2 Tim 1:12)

## **The Lord is still on the throne.**

Things in the world today are chaotic

## **It's Not that way in the kingdom of God. (1 Pet 1:5)**

The divine Architect is ordering our lives

## **He orders our lives for His glory: (Heb 13:20-21)**

## **How wonderful to live in that confidence. (Ps 37:23)**

We have a plan that is working out for us (Rom 8:28-29)

That knowledge Leads us to be Thankful. (1 Thes 5:18)