

The Book of Esther

Introduction to Chapter 11

Author and Date

What is the origin of the Book of Esther?

Title

Who is the book named after?

Place in the Canon

Where is the Book of Esther located in the Jewish and Christian canon?

Structure

What is the structure of the Book of Esther?

Literary Background

What is the literary background of the Book of Esther?

Literary Genre

Is the Book of Esther read as history or as historical fiction?

Content and Themes

Where does the story of the Book of Esther take place and who are the characters?

Christian Perspective

Is the Book of Esther quoted in the New Testament?

(Read 11:2-4) Who is Mordecai? (Note 11:2)

Where is Susa located? (Note 11:3)

What is the content of Mordecai's dream? (Note 11:4)

(Read 12:1-6) What is a eunuch? (Note 12:1)

(Read 1:1-3) How large was the Persian empire? (Note 1:1)

Where is Media located? (Note 1:3)

(Read 1:4-12) Why did queen Vashti refuse to appear before the king? (Note 1:12)

(Read 2:1-18) Who replaces queen Vashti? (Note 2:1-18)

What is the process for the selection of the new queen? (Note 2:12) (Note 2:14)

(Read 2:19-23) How were the condemned hanged in Persia? (Note 2:23)

(Read 3:1) Who is Haman? (Note 3:1)

(Read 3:2) Why didn't Mordecai bow? (Note 3:2)

(Read 3:3-11) How does Haman respond to Mordecai's disobedience? (Note 3:6) (Note 3:8)

(Read 4:1-7) Does Esther intercede for her people? (Note 4:1-7)

(Read 4:8-17) How does Esther approach the king? (Note 4:11) (Note 4:16)

(Read 14:1-19) What are the components of Esther's prayer? (Note 14:1-19) (Note 14:6)

(Read 15:1-16) Is Esther successful in persuading the king? (Note 15:6, 7, 8)

(Read 5:3-8) What is the rhetorical expression “half of my kingdom” mean? (Note 5:3)

(Read 5:9-14) Who is Zareh? (Note 5:10)

Does pride go before the fall? (Note 5:11)

(Read 6:1) Why couldn't the king sleep? (Note 6:1)

(Read 6:2-6:11) What is the ironic change of events that affect the lives of Haman and Mordecai? (Note 6:10)

(Read 6:12-7:10) How does it go for Haman? (Note 7:1-10) (Note 7:8) (Note 7:10)

(Read 8:1-2) How is Mordecai blessed? (Note 8:1, Note 8:2)

(Read 8:3-12) How do you work around a law that cannot be revoked? (Note 8:8)

(Read 16:10) Who are the Macedonians? (Note 16:10)

What happened on the 13th day of Adar? (Note 9:1-15)

How is the feast of Purim celebrated today? (Note 9:16-28)

What does Purim mean? (Word Study page 88)