

**The Man Whom The  
King Delights To Honor**

# Two OT books named after ideal women (Ruth; Esther)

Men also took responsibility

Ruth: Boaz

Esther: Mordecai

- **Ezra:** scribe
- **Nehemiah:** governor
- **Mordecai:** from exiled servant to second in command over Persia

# Timeline

Ezra 1-6  
536 BC

Esther  
483-473 BC

Ezra 7-10  
458 BC

Neh.  
444 BC

# Persian Empire



# I. Summary Of Esther

## Esther 1 – the divorce

## Esther 2 – new queen

- Mordecai, of Kish: Benjamite (5-6)
- Mordecai raised Esther (7, 10)
- Mordecai's concern for Esther (11)
- King's gate (19); loyal to king (21-23)

## Esther 3 – Haman

- Mordecai, the Jew: will not bow

## Esther 4 – Mordecai mourns

- Tragedy in the making
- Must act now
- Fasting (trust in God)
  - Esther reflects Mordecai's training, 10ff
  - Trusted God's providence: 14

Not intimidated

Not bitter

# Esther 5 – banquet; gallows

## Esther 6 – looking bad

- Insomnia, 1
- Five years late, 2-4
- Haman's bad day, 5-14

Esther 7 – truth – consequences

Esther 8 – Mordecai's power

Esther 9-10 – Israel blessed

## I. Summary Of Esther

# II. Sample Of Excellence: Mordecai

# 1. Exiled...overlooked...threatened; Mordecai did not blame God

- Mordecai knew bad things happen to good people.
- Maintained faith. Hb.11

## 2. Family of Saul, yet no excuses

- Mordecai did not repeat Saul's sins
- Exemplary character: set good example

### 3. Good 'father' to Esther

- Love, 2:7
- Obedience, respect, 2:10
- Concern, 2:11
- Taught / lived spiritual priorities, 4:8-13
- Example / Influence
  - Positive – fights for God's plan / people
  - Negative – opposes wicked Haman

## 4. Courage and convictions, 3:1-5

- He was hated, 5:13

## 5. Strong faith and wisdom, 4:13-14

- 4:14, “...will arise...” – How did he know?
  - Gn.12
  - 2 Sm.7
  - Jer.31
    - Exodus: miracles
    - Esther: providence
- 4:16-17, did everything he could

God will keep  
His promises

## 6. Exaltation

- Did his favor with Ahasuerus influence Artaxerxes to favor Ezra and Nehemiah?
  - The good that we do outlives us.

8:6 – Esther and Mordecai are safe;  
Jewish brothers still in danger.
  - The evil that we do outlives us.
    - Haman's decree stands after he dies.

## 6. Exaltation

- Haman's plan did not wipe out Jews; it actually . . .

Increased proselytes, 8:17

Finished what Saul did not, 9:5-10

## 7. Praise to God, thanksgiving, 9:2, 22, 24-28

- The threat to destroy them, united them instead.

## 8. Looked out for others, 10:3

Joseph

Egypt

Prison

Mordecai

Persia

Death warrant

Both

Loyal to God

Past deeds forgotten

Remembered at crucial time

Rewarded – 2<sup>nd</sup> in command

Influenced rulers