

Message Notes

An Invitation to the Book of Esther

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – “Where is God?”

John 16:33

A New Series!

The Book of Esther: a reversal of fortunes

This week’s Message: *An Invitation to Esther*

Esther 1:1-4

What is the book of Esther?

1. Main Characters
2. Emotional Word Pictures
3. Historical Situation

Interesting Esther Facts (and Problems!)

1. Book of Esther is so popular among Jewish readers that it is called the Megilloth (Scroll)
2. One of 2 OT books named for women.
3. Origin of feast of Purim
4. God is never mentioned in the entire book
5. Nor, is there any miracle or divine intervention in the entire book
6. No NT quotes from this book
7. Little impact in Christian History
8. Who is the (human) hero?

So, then, why are we studying Esther?

Invitation to a Story

John 10:1-6

What we believe about how The Book of Esther can change our lives:

1. God is always the main point (character) of all of the Bible (as well as all of life) -- Romans 15:4-5
2. The Word of God changes lives – Isaiah 55:10-11
3. All Scripture is valuable – 2 Timothy 3:16-17
4. All Scripture points ultimately to Jesus Christ – John 5:39, Luke 24:25-27
5. The Mystery of the Gospel is the inclusion of non-Jews in the Kingdom of God – Ephesians 3:4-6

Gospel Application – “Where is God when he doesn’t seem to speak in your story?”

Esther 1:1-4

¹This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush: ²At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa, ³and in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. The military leaders of Persia and Media, the princes, and the nobles of the provinces were present. ⁴For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty.

Romans 15:4-6

⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 55:10-11

¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

John 5:39-40

³⁹You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Ephesians 3:4-6

⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. ⁶his mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.