

Esther



Background

- What does the Lecture suggest about the author of this book?
- Where does the story of Esther take place? What is the significance of this?
- What does the Lecture say about the purpose of this book? What does this tell us about the book and how should we respond?
- What does the Lecture say about the lack of any mention of God in this book? What does this tell us about the character of this book and how to read it? Why is this important?

Outline

- What are the two main sections of Esther? What does each section generally cover? What does this tell us about the overall content of this book? How does this help us to read, understand, and apply Esther?
- What was the problem and why was that such a big deal? How did God bring about the solution?

Content

- What are the key verses of Esther? What does each highlight? What does each tell us about the overall content and message of Esther? What does each tell us about how God works on behalf of His people and what He expects from them?
- How did Mordecai encourage Esther to do what was right? What lessons can be learned from that? How do they apply?
- According to the key verses, why was it significant that the king could not sleep? What happened as a result of this? Why is this important? How does it contribute to the larger story?
- How did Esther come to be queen?
- What did Haman plan to do? Why? Why was this a problem?
- What caused Haman's downfall? Why is this significant?
- How did the Jews avoid being exterminated? What does this have to do with the feast of Purim?
- How is the Esther story related in time to the history told in Ezra and Nehemiah? What is the significance of this according to the Lecture? What lessons can we learn from this? How do they apply?

Themes

- Explain each of the theological themes in your own words. What does each tell us about the content, message and significance of Esther? How should each idea be applied in current life?
- How is poetic justice demonstrated in Esther? What does this tell us about the justice and power of God? How should we respond?
- What is meant by the term "providence"? How is this demonstrated in Esther? In what ways is this significant for your own life and ministry? How should you respond?

Review

- Review the two major sections of Esther and work toward committing this to memory.
- Review the key themes of Esther and work toward committing them to memory.
- Review the one-word book summaries for the History Books and work toward committing them to memory.
- Review the 5 Epochs of OT history and work toward committing them to memory.
- Review how the Old Testament books fit in the Old Testament history.
- What point does the Lecture make about Israel's future at the end of the historical books? Why is this significant?