



Esther – Study Guide



Bible Reading (Other chapters may be read for extra credit/benefit)	Textbook Reading (Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)
Esther	Ch. 18
☐ 1:1-2:18 ☐ 2:19-3:15 ☐ 4:1-5:4 ☐ ch. 6 ☐ ch. 7 ☐ ch. 8 ☐ ch. 9	☐ Contents (Esther)

Study Guide for Esther

Chapter 1:1-Chapter 2:18

- What is your impression of the power and wealth of Xerxes as described in this section? How does this give background and set the mood for the rest of the story?
- How did queen Vashti displease the king? What advice was he given for how to deal with this? What did he do in response?
- What advice was the king given for how to replace the queen? How did he respond?
- How are Mordecai and Esther introduced and described in this story? How were they related?
- What did Esther do in the king's household? Why did Esther not reveal her nationality? What do you think that foreshadows? How did Mordecai care for her?
- What was the procedure for the women to meet the king? Why do you think this was described? What did Esther do that was different from the others? Why do you think that was significant?
- How did the king respond to Esther? What was the end result of this? How does this prepare for the rest of the story?

Chapter 2:19-Chapter 3:15

- How did Mordecai find out about the conspiracy to kill the king? How did the king find out about it? How did the king respond?
- How does this section describe Haman and his position in the government? How did others treat Haman? How did Mordecai treat Haman? Why?
- How did Haman respond when he heard about Mordecai? What did he plan to do? Why was this a problem?
- What did Haman ask from the king? What reasons did he give? How did the king respond? What was done as a result of this? How did the people respond?

(Continued on the next page)

Chapter 4-Chapter 5:4

- How did Mordecai respond to the news? What did Esther do when she heard about Mordecai?
- What did Mordecai communicate to Esther? What did he ask her to do? How did she respond?
- How did Mordecai respond to Esther? What assurance did he give her regarding the situation? What possibility and challenge did he give to her regarding her situation? What is the significance of this?
- How did Esther respond to Mordecai's message? What did she ask the people to do? What did she resolve she would do herself? What difference does this make?
- What happened when Esther went to see the king? How did the king respond? What did Esther request? How do you think this foreshadows later events?

Chapter 6

- What "coincidences" happened in this chapter? What do you think is the best explanation of why these things happened? What point was the author making by recording these things in this way? How should we respond?
- What did the king learn about Mordecai? How did he respond?
- What did the king ask Haman? How did Haman respond? Why did he respond in that way? How was Haman mistaken? What was the result of this? What does this demonstrate about God and His ways?
- What did Haman's wife say to him? How does this relate to the overall message of this book? What do you think it foreshadows? What can we learn from this?

Chapter 7

- What request did Esther make from the king at the dinner? What reason did she give? How did the king respond? Why was he shocked at this request?
- What clarifying question did the king ask the queen? How did she answer? How did the king respond? How did Haman respond? What was the ultimate result of this? What can we learn from this?

Chapter 8

- What happened to Haman's property? What is the significance of this?
- What did the queen again request from the king? What was the obstacle to fulfilling that request? How did they get around that problem?
- What did the king's new decree command? How did this solve the problem? How did the Jews respond?

Chapter 9

- What happened on the appointed day? Why? How did this solve the problem for God's people and bring this story to a happy ending?
- What is the feast of Purim? How did it get that name? Why is it celebrated on two different days? What is the significance of this feast?
- What should we learn from the overall story of Esther? How does it demonstrate the character and plan of God? How should we respond?

(Continued on the next page)

Study Guide for Textbook chapter 18

The Book of Esther

Contents

- What does the textbook say about the issue of monotheism versus polytheism? How was this a challenge to the Jews in the Persian empire? How did Mordecai respond, according to the textbook?
- What are the different sections of the book of Esther? How do they each contribute to and move the story forward to its climax and conclusion? How is this book structured, according to the textbook?
- How did Esther become queen? Why? What other background information was given before the problem is described?
- What did Haman convince the king to do? Why? What does the textbook mention about an official Persian decree?
- What was the only hope remaining for the saving of the Jewish people, according to the textbook? How is this central to the plot of this book?
- What risk did Esther take to do this? How did Mordecai convince her to do this? What does the textbook say is the theme of this book? How does that apply today?
- How did the king respond to Esther? What did she request from him?
- How does the textbook explain the fact that the king could not sleep that night?
- What did the king do when he was reminded what Mordecai had done? Why does the textbook describe this as a twist of irony? What should we learn from this?
- What happened to Haman at the dinner? What does the textbook describe as more irony? How is this related to the point of this entire story?
- How did they deal with the matter of Haman's decree? What was the ultimate result?
- What is the feast of Purim and how is it related to this story?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter