



**COMING UP... NOV 17: Nehemiah NOV 24: Malachi CLASS ENDS**

**ESTHER SUMMARIZED IN A WORD OR PHRASE: "Courage"**

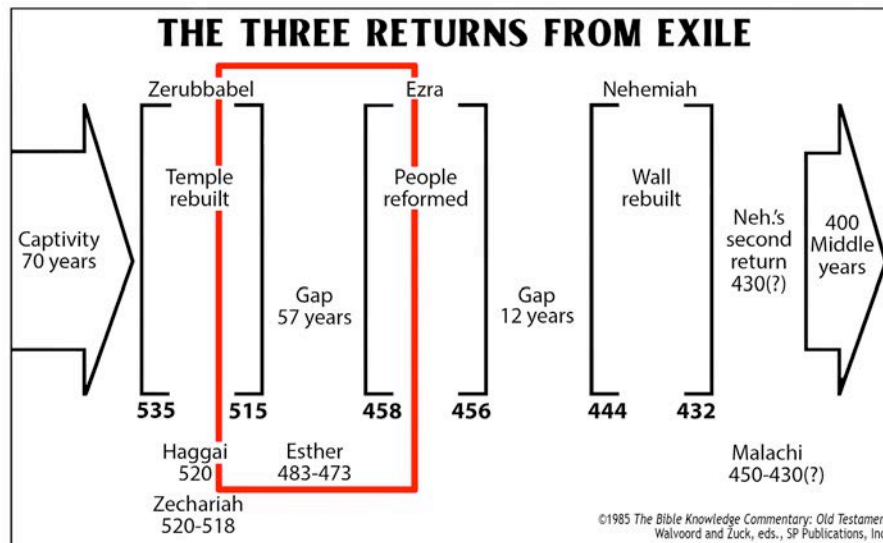
**THE TIMES ...**

Almost 50,000 exiles returned to Jerusalem in 538 BC with a desire to resettle the land and rebuild the Temple ... but many more Jews stayed behind in Babylon

Perhaps people of more "ordinary" faith

The time came, however, when even an ordinary follower would be called upon to stand up and stand out in spite of the risk

**THE EXILES LEAVE BABYLON**



**THE BASICS ...**

**Who:** Hadassah/Esther ("Myrtle/Star") **When:** postexilic (circa 470 BC) **Where:** to the dispersed Jewish community

**Why:** "... God is sovereign. Even though His name never occurs in the book, there can be no doubt that He has dominion over all nations and history itself." – Eugene Merrill

**LESSON THEME: Standing up and standing out for God**

**Esther's Selection (1-2)**

Vashti is deposed

Xerxes goes off to war against Greece and comes home defeated (483; 481-479 BC)

He needs a new queen

Esther wins the competition

She becomes queen (479 BC)

**Esther's Courage (3-7)**

Haman's evil plot is prompted by pride (3)

Mordecai's concern for the condemned and faith to stand up and stand out (4)

Esther's courageous intercession (5-7)

She may have been reluctant

Within the palace, perhaps she just didn't know

On Mordecai's counsel, she places herself fully in God's hands, stands up and steps out in faith

## God's Deliverance (8-10)

- The lot had been cast (3:7)
- A new law is decreed (8)
  - The old law cannot be rescinded
  - But a new law supersedes it
- The holy war (9)
  - Compare 1 Samuel 15
  - Agag the Amalekite (Haman)
  - Saul the Benjamite (Mordecai)

## Epilogue: The People Worship

- The Feast of Purim ("lots")
- Not legislated by the Law (Lev 23)
- Celebrated on the 14th and 15th of the twelfth month of the Jewish year (our Feb/Mar)
- Celebrates God's faithful and sovereign deliverance of His people

## Summary

- This is a book about God's providence
- This is a book about "ordinary" men and women of faith
- This is a book about making courageous choices of faith ... in spite of the consequences
- This is a book that reminds the "ordinary" believer to place himself fully in God's hands and stand up and stand out for Him

**APPLICATION:** Standing up and standing out for Jesus

## Standing Up and Standing Out

- How would you answer my friends in east Asia regarding what you have or would be willing to lay on the line to follow Jesus?
- Are you hiding your light under a bushel?
- Are you confident that God is at work behind the scenes in your life?
- Have you put yourself fully in His hands?
- Do you need to stand up and stand out for Him somewhere? If so, where ... and when?

**FOR NEXT TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

©2017 by Dr. John W. Egener unless otherwise indicated. All rights reserved.

**CONTACT:** [BillE@christchapelbc.org](mailto:BillE@christchapelbc.org) **ADMIN:** [LaurieE@christchapelbc.org](mailto:LaurieE@christchapelbc.org)

**YOUTUBE VIDEOS + HANDOUTS** [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGhFjfAlhYpqcC2XYXZJXiwut\\_8g7P3qhF](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGhFjfAlhYpqcC2XYXZJXiwut_8g7P3qhF)

**VIDEOS + HANDOUTS** [ccbcfamily.org](http://ccbcfamily.org)

**PODCAST:** <https://feeds.transistor.fm/old-testament-survey>

## ESTHER

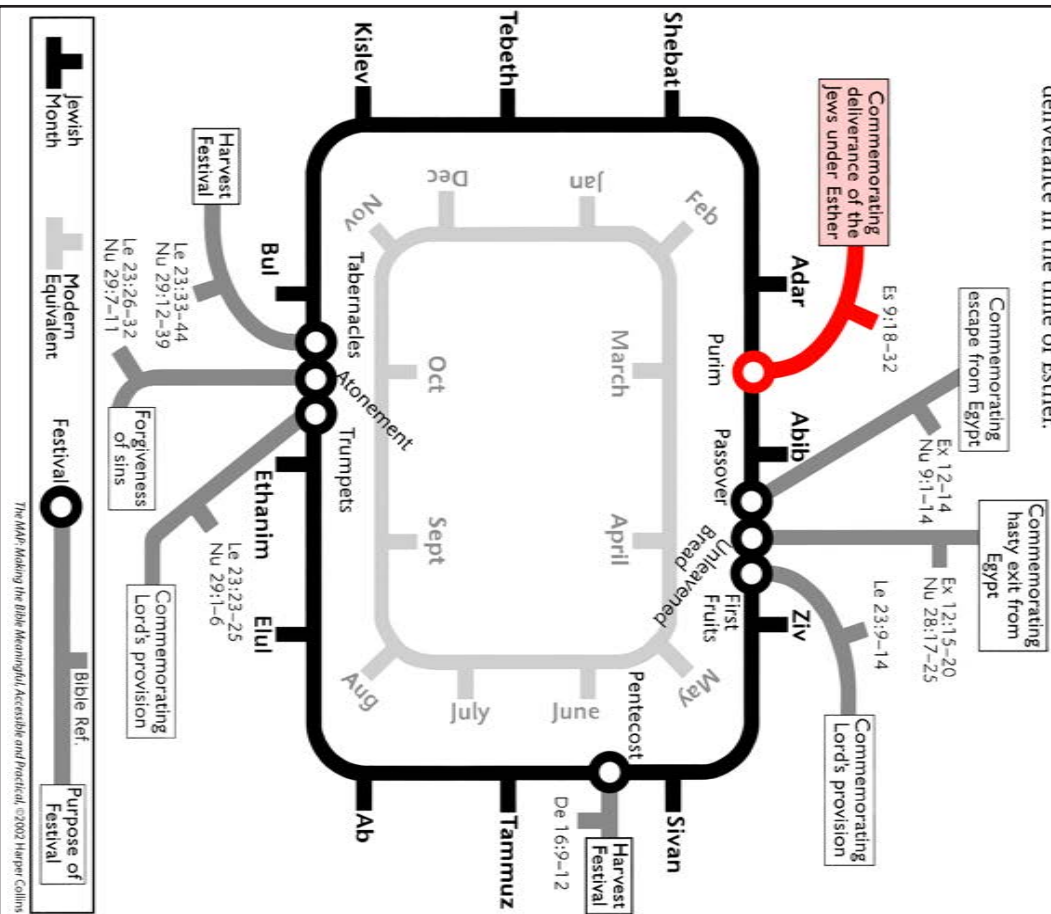
Threat to the Jews		Triumph of the Jews	
danger		deliverance	
Selection of Esther as Queen	Formulation of the plot by Haman and Esther's jeopardy	Triumph of Mordecai over Haman	Triumph of Israel over her enemies
1:1 2:20	2:21 4:17	5:1 8:2	8:3 10:3

©2017 Dr. John W. Egener

## Jewish Calendar and Festivals

There were three main festivals in the Jewish calendar: Passover commemorated the exodus from Egypt; Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks, celebrated the wheat harvest; and Tabernacles (*Succoth*, or the Feast of Shelters), which was both a harvest festival and a commemoration of Israel's wanderings in the desert.

Other significant days included the Feast of Trumpets, which called people to fast in preparation for the Jewish new year (*Rosh Hashanah*), and the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) which was a day of national fasting, and repentance. Lesser festivals included Purim, which recalled the Jews' deliverance in the time of Esther.



The Maps: Making the Bible Meaningful, Accessible and Practical, ©2002 Harper Collins



"Esther Feasts With the King" by James Tissot

## Jewish Feasts

Feast of	Month on Jewish Calendar	Day	Corresponding Month	References
Passover	Nisan	14	Mar.-Apr.	Ex. 12:1-14; Matt. 26:17-20
*Unleavened Bread	Nisan	15-21	Mar.-Apr.	Ex. 12:15-20
Firstfruits	Nisan or Sivan	16 or 6	Mar.-Apr. or May-June	Lev. 23:9-14; Num. 28:26
*Pentecost (Harvest or Weeks)	Sivan	6 (50 days after barley harvest)	May-June	Deut. 16:9-12; Acts 2:1
Trumpets, <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	Tishri	1, 2	Sept.-Oct.	Num. 29:1-6
Day of Atonement, <i>Yom Kippur</i>	Tishri	10	Sept.-Oct.	Lev. 23:26-32; Heb. 9:7
*Tabernacles (Booths or Ingathering)	Tishri	15-22	Sept.-Oct.	Neh. 8:13-18; John 7:2
Dedication (Lights), <i>Hanukkah</i>	Chislev	25 (8 days)	Nov.-Dec.	John 10:22
Purim (Lots)	Adar	14, 15	Feb.-Mar.	Esth. 9:18-32

\*The three major feasts for which all males of Israel were required to travel to the Temple in Jerusalem (Ex. 23:14-19).

Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts © 1983 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

## Esther: How God Works in the World



“Mordecai” by James Tissot

“Mordecai’s Triumph” by James Tissot



“The Chronicles Are Read to Ahasuerus” by James Tissot

### God’s Will

*What God wants done—He works through...*

#### God’s Action

#### Natural Order

God set into action through Creation a normal working of his universe. He also revealed his expectations of people through his Word and people’s consciences.

#### Miracles

God breaks into the natural order to respond to the expressed needs of people.

#### Providence

God overrules the natural order to accomplish an act that people may or may not have requested.

#### Examples from Esther

God gave Esther natural beauty.

Esther planned a way to save her people.

God allowed Esther to speak to the king.

The people prayed and fasted.

God allowed Mordecai to over-hear a plot.  
Mordecai trusted God to accomplish what was impossible in human terms.

### People’s Will

*What people want done—we either...*

#### Action We Can Take

#### Plan

Can make plans based on the order and dependability of God’s creation. Know and obey his words.

#### Pray

Can ask God to intervene in certain affairs while realizing that our knowledge and perspective are limited.

#### Trust and Obey

Can trust that God is in control even when circumstances seem to indicate that he is not.

#### Or...

#### Mistakes We Can Make

#### Disobey

Can violate the natural order, disobey God’s commands.

#### Demand

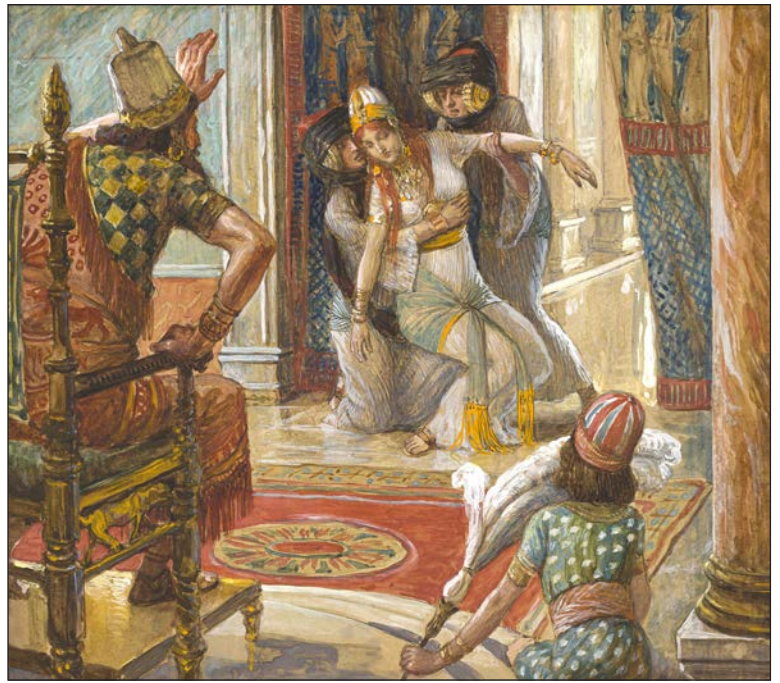
Can assume that we understand what is needed and expect God to agree and answer our prayers that way.

#### Despair

Can assume God doesn’t answer prayer or respond to our needs and live as though there is nothing but the natural order.



"Esther Presented to Ahasuerus"  
by James Tissot



"Esther Before Ahasuerus" by James Tissot



# ESTHER

**1-2 KING OF PERSIAS GREATNESS**

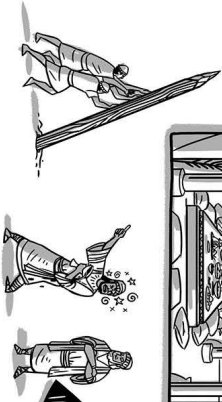
BRING ME THE WINE!  
DESERVE TO BE THE KING OF THE WORLD!

**3A HAMAN ELEVATED**

ACAGITTE = CANNANITE!

**3B HAMANS DESIRE TO KILL THE JEWS**

ROLLS THE DICE!



100 YEARS AFTER  
SABOTAGED  
**EXILE**

**TEHRAN**  
SUSA = PERSIAN CAPITAL

MORDECAI  
HADASSAH (ESTHER)  
JEWISH COMMUNITY

HAMAN

**CURIOUS FACT:**

- GOD IS NEVER MENTIONED
- INVITATION TO LOOK FOR GOD'S ACTIVITY
- "CONCIDENTENCE" & IRONIC REVERSAL

**MORAL AMBIGUITY:**

- A LOT OF DRINKING, SEX AND MURDER
- VIOLATION OF 10th COMMANDS

**THE POINT:**

DISPITE EXILE "GODS" ABSENCE, AND ISRAELIS MORAL COMPROMISE, GOD HAS NOT ABANDONED HIS PROMISES

**4 ESTHER & MORDECAI PLAN TO REVERSE THE DECREE**

DELIVERANCE MUST COME FROM SOMEWHERE!  
PERHAPS YOU'VE BECOME QUEEN!  
IF I PERISH FOR THIS MESSAGE!

**5 ESTHER'S 1st BANQUET**

PLEASE COME TO MY BANQUET TOMORROW!  
MORDECAI! DON'T GO! LET ME WORSHIP!

**6 THE STORY PIVOTS**

LET ME WORSHIP!  
MORDECAI! DON'T GO!

**7 ESTHER'S 2nd BANQUET**

HAMANS PLOTTED TO KILL THE JEWS!  
MORDECAI! DON'T GO!



**9-10 MORDECAI'S GREATNESS**

2 FAST DAYS - PURIM  
COMMEMORATES THE JEWS' DELIVERANCE FROM DESTRUCTION.  
QUEEN & MORDECAI SAVE THE JEWS!

**8C MORDECAI ELEVATED**

MORDECAI!

**8B MORDECAI'S MERIT TO SAVE THE JEWS**

MORDECAI'S MERIT TO SAVE THE JEWS  
ALL JEWS CAN DEFEND THEMSELVES AND DESTROY THEIR ENEMIES!

created by the Bible Project