



Old Testament Outline: Esther by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Esther = Star (Heb. Hadassah, 2:7) [God Is Prevalent]
Between **Ezra 6-7**, c.a. 484-465 B.C. **Blueprint for Redemption**

I. **Quality Queens 1:1-2:23**

- A. Queen Vashti: Vanished By A Feast **1:1-2:1**
 - 1. Ahasuerus had stopped Jewish opposition in Judah **Ezra 4:6-24**
 - 2. Ahasuerus=Xerxes lost to Greeks at Thermopylae and Salamis and returned to Vashti's rejection **1:1-8**
 - 3. Vashti commanded by "merry" old soul **1:8-11**
 - 4. Vashti's refusal had to "outlawed" **1:12-2:1**

- B. Esther: Validated By A Feast **2:2-18**
 - 1. Beauty and the Feast **2:1-4**
 - a. Mordecai the "Jew" (X 7:**2:5; 5:13;6:10;8:7;9:29,31; 10:3**)
 - b. Part of the captivity **2:5-6; 2 Kings 24:8-16; Jeremiah 22:24-30**
 - c. Pitied orphaned "Hadassah"=Esther **2:7**
 - 2. Instant "winner" of king's favor **2:8-17**
 - 3. National Persian "Day For A Queen" **2:18**
 - 4. Mordecai: Vindicated By Fealty **2:19-23**
 - a. Kept Esther quiet about her heritage **2:19**
 - b. Revealed murderous plot against Ahasuerus **2:21-22**
 - c. Written in royal record-book **2:23**

II. **Ambition Amuck 3:1-7:10**

- A. Horrific Haman **3:1-15**
 - 1. Descendant of King Agag **3:1; Deuteronomy 25:17-19; 1 Samuel 15:1-35**
 - 2. Took The Office Personally **3:2-5; Proverbs 30:21-23; John 12:42-43**
 - 3. National Racism **3:6-15**
 - a. Begins with a perceived, personal slight **3:6**
 - b. Misrepresentation to government **3:7-9**
 - c. Government grants authority and money for "cause" **3:10-11**

- d. Becomes official "law" of the land **3:12-15a**
 - e. Let the citizen beware! **3:15b**
- B. Moral Mordecai **4:1-10:3**
1. No wailing wall needed, just go outside the capitol **4:1-3**
 2. Queen of Hearts **4:4-8:17**
 - a. Offered Mordecai glad rags **4:4**
 - b. Offered messenger **4:5-17**
 - (1 Found out reason for grief from Mordecai **4:5-9**
 - (2 Read royal rules for approaching king **4:10-12**
 - (3 Mordecai sent back, "Why not go for it" **4:13-14**
 - (4 Esther called for Jewish fast for her to act **4:15-17**
 - c. Offered Herself **5:1-8**
 - (1 Paraded herself before king **5:1-2**
 - (2 Presented herself to "smitten" king **5:3**
 - (3 Petitioned king to bring Haman to banquet **5:4-8**
 - d. Offered Haman **5:9-8:2**
 - (1 What he thought was a "special invitation" **5:9-13**
 - (2 A little "gallows" humor to him **5:14**
 - (3 Reading history book good for sleepless king **6:1-14**
 - (a Mordecai's faithfulness to the king unrewarded **6:1-3**
 - (b Haman's pride couldn't reward anyone else **6:4-11**
 - (c Haman pouted; his wife predicted **6:12-14**
 - (4 Handwriting on the wall - without a hand! **7:1-7**
 - (5 Threw himself on her mercy or couch? **7:8-8:2**
 - e. Offered Alternative Decree **8:3-17**
 - (1 Begged for her own people **8:3-6**
 - (2 Gave permission to empower Jews **8:7-17**
 3. Pass the Purim, please **9:1-10:3**
 - a. Flight day became fight day for the Jews **9:1-17**
 - b. Feast days 14-15, Adar **9:18-32**
 - c. Favorable days for Mordecai and the Jews **10:1-3**

Thoughts:

1. **God's name (Cf Exodus 3:13-15; 6:2-4) is never mentioned in book, except in acrostic hidden forms (YHVH seen in Esther 1:20; 5:4, 13; 7:7).** None of the distinctive Jewish practices are referred to (temple, sacrifices, holy days, priests, etc.). However, though God is not named, His control over worldly affairs is evident.
2. **Written by someone thoroughly knowledgeable with Persian expressions and details:** Haman's wife and sons' names (**5:10; 9:7-14**), Persian law and etiquette (**1:7-8,13-22; 2:2-4,8,14,23; 3:1-2,12-15; 4:2-4, 11, 15-16; 5:1-3; 8:8-10**), over 180 references to the Persian king, 35 Persian proper names correctly spelled, extent of the Persian empire (**1:1**), proper Persian terms for specific Persian objects ("officials" **1:3**; "linen" **1:6**; "law" **1:8**; "decree" **1:20**; "satraps" **3:12**; "copy" **3:14**). [For more, see pp 260-261, *New Century Bible Commentary: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*, by D.J.A. Clines, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publ. Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1984]
3. **Reversal of fortune is the theme of the book.** Joseph preceded Israel's children into Egypt where he became 2nd only to Pharaoh (**Genesis 41:37-45**) from which "the children of Israel" were later delivered under Moses (**Exodus 12:40; 14:30-31**). In Esther, the captivity of the children of Israel is occurring only to have protection from within the pagan palace through Esther, and then Mordecai the Jew is left by the book "second to King Ahasuerus" (**Esther 10:3**). The plight of the Jews is thus reversed from being exterminated by Haman's hateful prejudice (**Esther 3:1-15**) to being saved by God's loving predisposition to protect His promise to them. This procedure is repeatedly followed throughout Scripture to prove that God uses the weak and small to accomplish what only God could (Cf **Deuteronomy 7:6-11; 8:11-20; 1 Samuel 2:7-8; Luke 1:51-53; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**).
4. **Only two women, Ruth and Esther, have Bible books named after them.** Ruth, a Moabitess who showed her faith in God, married into the Jewish faith; Esther, a Jew, married out of the faith but showed her faith in God. **Cf 1 Peter 3:1-6**