

Introduction

1. The book of Esther begins during the days of the Persian king Ahasuerus ([Est. 1:1-2](#))
2. During the last day of a seven-day feast, the king commanded his seven eunuchs to bring queen Vashti before him ([Est. 1:4-11](#))
 - a. Ahasuerus was drunk ([Est. 1:10](#))
 - b. Vashti refused which enraged Ahasuerus ([Est. 1:12](#))
 - c. For fear that other wives would despise their husbands, a royal decree was issued which removed Vashti from being queen ([Est. 1:13-22](#))

I. Esther's Beauty

1. The king needed a replacement for his queen ([Est. 2:1-4](#))
 - a. The requirements for the prospective women were beauty, young, and virgin ([Est. 2:2](#))
2. Esther had a guardian ([Est. 2:5-7](#))
 - a. Mordecai was a Jew ([Est. 2:5](#))
 - b. Esther (also known as Hadassah) was an orphan ([Est. 2:7](#))
 - c. Esther was lovely and beautiful ([Est. 2:7](#))
3. Esther was included in the king's request for a new queen ([Est. 2:8-15](#))
 - a. Esther pleased Hegai ([Est. 2:9](#))
 - b. Esther, also a Jew, did not reveal her nationality at the charge of Mordecai ([Est. 2:10-11](#))
 - c. After twelve months of beautification, it was Esther's turn to go in to the king ([Est. 2:12-14](#))
 - d. Esther was modest ([Est. 2:15](#))
4. Esther was made queen ([Est. 2:16-18](#))

II. Esther's Courage

1. Mordecai discovered and foiled a plot against the king ([Est. 2:19-23](#))
 - a. Esther still showed obedience to Mordecai ([Est. 2:20](#))
 - b. The proper response to an accusation is inquiry into the matter to ascertain truth ([Est. 2:23](#); [Dt. 13:12-15](#))
2. Haman rose to power ([Est. 3:1-4](#))
 - a. Mordecai showed reverence toward the God of Heaven ([Est. 3:2-4](#))
3. Haman plotted to destroy the Jews ([Est. 3:5-15](#))
 - a. Haman received authority to annihilate the Jews in the kingdom of Ahasuerus
4. Mordecai and Esther reacted to the plot ([Est. 4:1-17](#))
 - a. Mordecai learned of the plot and mourned along with the other Jews ([Est. 4:1-3](#))
 - b. Esther attempted to clothe Mordecai, but he refused ([Est. 4:4](#))
 - c. Esther inquired of why Mordecai acted this way ([Est. 4:5-9](#))

- d. Once she knew, Esther sent back reply ([Est. 4:10-12](#))
- e. Mordecai replied to Esther ([Est. 4:13-14](#))
- f. Esther's reply was one of great courage ([Est. 4:15-17](#))
5. Esther went to the king and hosted a banquet ([Est. 5:1-8](#))
 - a. Esther's previous behavior granted her present favor ([Est. 5:2-3](#))
 - b. The request was a banquet and Haman was invited ([Est. 5:4](#))
 - c. At the banquet, Esther requested Haman and the king to attend a second day ([Est. 5:5-8](#))
6. Haman plotted to destroy Mordecai ([Est. 5:9-14](#))
 - a. Haman could not get Mordecai out of his head ([Est. 5:11-13](#))
 - b. Be careful who you associate with for you may receive terrible advice ([Est. 5:14](#); [1 Cor. 15:33](#))
7. Mordecai was honored by the king ([Est. 6:1-14](#))
 - a. Haman was busting at the seams with pride ([Est. 6:6-9](#))
 - b. Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall ([Est. 6:10-11](#); [Pr. 16:18](#))
 - c. Haman pouted like a child ([Est. 6:12-13](#))
 - d. The fall of Haman was hastened ([Est. 6:14](#))
8. Haman was executed on his own gallows ([Est. 7:1-10](#))
 - a. Esther revealed her nationality and Haman's plot to the king ([Est. 7:3-4](#))
 - b. Haman was doomed ([Est. 7:5-10](#))

III. Esther's Decree

1. Esther received authority to counteract the evil of Haman ([Est. 8:1-17](#))
 - a. Mordecai moved into a position of authority ([Est. 8:1-2](#))
 - b. A decree was written which enabled the Jews to combat their enemies ([Est. 8:3-17](#))
2. The Jews fought back and overcame their enemies ([Est. 9:1-17](#))
3. The feast of Purim was started ([Est. 9:18-32](#))
4. Mordecai was advanced in the kingdom of Ahasuerus ([Est. 10:1-3](#))

Conclusion

1. We do not see God's name mentioned once in the book of Esther
 - a. However, we see His influence and especially the fear of the LORD all throughout this book
 - b. God protects His people who fear Him
2. Esther is an excellent example of reverence
 - a. She coupled physical beauty with modesty
 - b. She showed great obedience and courage