

## ESTHER

- I. PROVIDENTIAL PREPARATIONS Chapters 1,2
  - A. Three Feasts 1:1-12
    1. The 180 day Feast 1:1-4 (Feast #1)
    2. Two 7 day Feasts 1:5-12 (Feasts #2, #3)
      - a. The Extravagance
      - b. The Drinking
      - c. The Disobedience of Vashti and the Anger of the King
  - B. The Edict Concerning Vashti (Edict #1)
    1. The King requests advice 1:13-15
    2. Memucan advises: 1:16-20
      - a. Vashti never to be in the King's presence
      - b. A better queen to replace Vashti
      - c. Law that men rule their own households
    3. The Edict is posted
  - C. The Edict Concerning the Search for a New Queen (Edict #2)
    1. The King accepts the advice of his personal attendants 2:1-4
    2. Esther and Mordecai are introduced to the story 2:5-7
    3. Edict #2 is carried out 2:8-14
    4. Esther become Queen 2:15-18 (Feast #4 for Esther)
    5. Esther continues to obey Mordecai 2:19,20

D. Mordecai Saves the King 2:21-23

1. Mordecai's act is recorded
2. Mordecai is unrewarded

## II. HAMAN'S EDICT TO DESTROY THE JEWS Chapter 3

A. Haman is elevated politically 3:1,2

B. Haman plots to annihilate the Jews 3:3-6

C. Haman plots on the basis of Fate 3:7

D. Haman secures the King's approval to destroy the Jews 3:8-11

E. Haman's Edict (Edict #3)

1. The delivery of the edict 3:12-14
2. The response in Susa 3:15

## III. PROVIDENTIAL INTERVENTION AND COURAGEOUS ACTIONS (Chapters 4-7)

A. The Responses of Mordecai and Esther Chapter 4

1. Mordecai and the Jews of Susa fast and mourn 4:1-3
2. Mordecai urges Esther to beg the King for mercy 4:4-8
3. Esther informs Mordecai of the danger of his plan 4:9-11
4. Mordecai tells her that she became Queen by Providence 4:12-14
5. Esther requests a 3 day fast. "If I perish, I perish"

B. Esther Gives A Feast Chapter 5

1. Esther is received in the throne room 5:1-3
2. Esther gives a feast for the King and Haman (Feast #5)  
She requests another feast.
3. Haman's reactions 5:9-14
  - a. Elation
  - b. Rage at Mordecai
  - c. Informs family and friends of his feelings
  - d. Builds gallows for Mordecai

C. Providential Intervention Chapter 6

1. Providentially, the King: 6:1-10
  - a. Can't sleep
  - b. Ordered the Chronicles to be read to him
  - c. Learned of Mordecai's part in stopping the assassination
  - d. Learned that Mordecai had not been rewarded
  - e. Asked Haman how to reward someone well
  - f. Commanded Haman to honor Mordecai
2. Haman is humiliated in honoring Mordecai 7:11,12
3. Haman shares his humiliation with family and friends 7:13
4. Haman is hurried to Esther's second feast 7:14

D. Esther Gives a Second Feast Chapter 7 (Feast #6)

1. The King asks Esther to make her request 7:1,2
2. Esther pleads for the King to save the Jews 7:3,4
3. Esther identifies Haman as the Enemy 7:5,6
4. The King leaves in a rage and returns to find Haman falling on Esther 7:7-9
5. Haman is executed on his own gallows 7:9,10

## IV. PROVIDENTIAL DELIVERANCE Chapters 8-10

- A. Deliverance Made Possible Chapter 8
  - 1. In the presence of the King 8:1-6
    - a. Mordecai is elevated
    - b. Esther again pleads for her people
  - 2. The New Edict 8:7-17 (Edict #4)
    - a. Is commanded by the King 8:7,8
    - b. Is written by Mordecai and sent out 8:9-14
    - c. Results in joy and conversions for the Jews 8:15-17
- B. Deliverance Carried Out Chapter 9
  - 1. In Susa 9:1-15
    - a. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of Adar 9:1-10
    - b. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of Adar 9:11-15
  - 2. In the provinces 9:16-19
- C. Deliverance Celebrated: Two Edicts 9:20-32 (Edicts #5,#6)
  - 1. Mordecai's edict tells the Jews to annually celebrate the Feast of Purim on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of Adar 9:20-28 (Feast #7)
  - 2. Esther's edict confirms the edict of Mordecai 9:29-32
- D. The Greatness of Mordecai Chapter 10  
See also 8:1,2,15; and 9:3,4