

ESTHER

"GOD'S SOVEREIGN PROTECTION OF HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE"

Mordecai to Esther: "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

Esther to Mordecai: "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish." Esther 4:14, 16

Prepared by James T. Bartsch
August, 2008

Published Online by WordExplain.com
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A1 JEWISH ASCENDANCY 1 - 2

A2 JEWISH DANGER 3 - 7

A3 JEWISH POWER 8 - 10

MAJOR DIVISIONS OF ESTHER
Based on THE ANALYSIS OF ESTHER
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A1 JEWISH ASCENDANCY 1 - 2

- B1 The King's Deposing of the Reluctant Queen Vashti 1
- B2 Esther's Selection as Queen from the King's Expanded Harem 2:1-20
- B3 Mordecai's Prevention of the King's Assassination 2:21-23

A2 JEWISH DANGER 3 - 7

- B1 Haman's Retaliatory Plan to Exterminate Mordecai and All Other Jews 3
- B2 Mordecai and Esther's Plan to Save the Jews 4
- B3 Esther's Holding of a Banquet for the King and Haman 5:1-8
- B4 Haman's Renewed Anger at Mordecai 5:9-14
- B5 The King's Exalting of Mordecai 6
- B6 The Debasing of Haman 7

A3 JEWISH POWER 8 - 10

- B1 National Self-Preservation 8 - 9
- B2 International Prominence: Mordecai's Supremacy in Power 10

CONDENSED OUTLINE OF ESTHER
Based on THE ANALYSIS OF ESTHER
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B1 The King's Deposing of the Reluctant Queen Vashti 1

- C1 The open house and banquet of King Ahasuerus 1:1-9
- C2 Queen Vashti's refusal to be displayed at the king's banquet 1:10-12
- C3 The king's deposing of the queen 1:13-22

B2 Esther's Selection as Queen from the King's Expanded Harem 2:1-20

- C1 King Ahasuerus' reflection upon his deposed queen 2:1
- C2 The initiation of efforts to select a new queen 2:2-4
- C3 The introduction of Mordecai, uncle and foster parent of beautiful Esther 2:4-7
- C4 The taking of Esther into the king's harem of virgins 2:8-11
- C5 The procedure for the king's evaluation of each virgin 2:12-14
- C6 The king's selection of Esther as his queen 2:15-18
- C7 Esther's care in not revealing her Jewish ancestry 2:19-20

B3 Mordecai's Prevention of the King's Assassination 2:21-23

A2 JEWISH DANGER 3 - 7

B1 Haman's Retaliatory Plan to Exterminate Mordecai and All Other Jews 3

- C1 The historical background behind Haman's hatred of the Jews 3:1-6
- C2 Haman's enactment of legislation authorizing extermination of Jews 3:7-15

B2 Mordecai and Esther's Plan to Save the Jews 4

- C1 The mourning of Mordecai and the Jews 4:1-3
- C2 Esther's attempts to ascertain Mordecai's grief 4:4-6
- C3 Mordecai's informing Esther of the plot against the Jews 4:7-9
- C4 Esther's reminding Mordecai of her personal danger in visiting the king without a royal summons 4:10-12
- C5 Mordecai's reminding Esther of her jeopardy in any case 4:13-14
- C6 Esther's instructions to Mordecai to organize fasting support preparatory to her visiting the king 4:15-17

B3 Esther's Holding of a Banquet for the King and Haman 5:1-8

- C1 Esther's invitation to her banquet 5:1-4
- C2 Esther's invitation to another banquet 5:5-8

B4 Haman's renewed anger at Mordecai 5:9-14

- C1 Haman's pleasure at his status before the king and queen 5:9
- C2 Haman's anger at Mordecai's lack of respect toward him 5:9
- C3 Haman's report to his friends and wife 5:10-13
- C4 Haman's preparation of a gallows for Mordecai 5:14

B5 The King's Exalting of Mordecai 6

- C1 The king's discovery of an official lapse of etiquette toward Mordecai 6:1-3
- C2 The king's seeking advice on honoring Mordecai 6:4-9
- C3 The king's commanding Haman so to honor Mordecai! 6:10-12
- C4 The somber prediction of Haman's wife and friends 6:13
- C5 The arrival of messengers to bring Haman to the queen's banquet 6:14

B6 The Debasing of Haman 7

- C1 The expose' of Haman 7:1-6
- C2 The execution of Haman 7:7-10

A3 JEWISH POWER 8 - 10

B1 National Self-Preservation 8 - 9

- C1 The king's authorizing of the Jews to defend themselves on "Extermination Day" 8
- C2 The Jews' defense of themselves 9:1-16
- C3 The institution of the feast of Purim 9:17-32

B2 International Prominence: Mordecai's Supremacy in Power 10

- C1 The taxation levied by King Ahasuerus 10:1
- C2 The annals of the king 10:2
- C3 The greatness of Mordecai 10:3

OUTLINE OF ESTHER

Based on THE ANALYSIS OF ESTHER

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B1 National Self-Preservation 8 - 9

- C1 The king's authorizing of the Jews to defend themselves on "Extermination Day" 8
 - D1 The elevation of Mordecai to power 8:1-2
 - D2 Esther's beseeching of the king to protect the Jewish people 8:3-8
 - D3 The description of the legislation 8:9-14
 - D4 The reaction to the legislation 8:15-17
- C2 The Jews' defense of themselves 9:1-16
 - D1 The summary of the Jewish victory 9:1
 - D2 The invincibility of the Jews 9:2-4
 - D3 The Jews' victory in Susa 9:5-15
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- C3 The institution of the feast of Purim 9:17-32
 - D1 The origins of the celebration of the victory 9:17-19
 - D2 The institutionalizing of the Feast of Purim 9:20-32

B2 International Prominence: Mordecai's Supremacy in Power 10

- C1 The taxation levied by King Ahasuerus 10:1
- C2 The annals of the king 10:2
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