

Esther: The Providence of God

Introduction

A. What?

1. The book is named after the main character _____, a _____ common girl, who became _____ at a very important time for the Jews. (Esther 2)
2. This book contains _____, _____, a rags to riches _____, _____, as well as Divine _____, but, no mention of _____, _____ or the _____.
3. The key verse is found in Esther 4:14

—For if you remain completely _____ at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from _____ place, but you and your father's house will _____. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a _____ as this?"

B. Where?

1. The Persian Empire reached from _____ westward to present day _____. (Est. 1:1)
2. The events in the Book of Esther take place in _____ which was winter capital of _____. (Est. 1:2)
3. _____ had a vision concerning this city in 551 B.C. when this city belonged to Babylon. (Dan. 8:2)

C. When?

1. The events in the Book of Esther take place between _____ and _____ B.C.
2. It takes place after the Babylonian captivity has _____ and King Cyrus had issued a _____ to allow any Jew, who desires, to _____ to their land. (Ezra 1)
3. Over 49,000 Jews had obediently returned to Jerusalem and _____ the temple in which they could _____ God according to the Law, but many Jews still _____ where they were at during the captivity.

D. Why?

1. A great many Jews had _____ to return back to Jerusalem and worship God due to _____, _____ and _____. (Ezra 1,4)

2. Their failure to return was a _____ against God's will for His people. (Is. 48:20; Jer. 29:10; 50:8; 51:6; Deu. 28)
3. Through a series of twist and turns, the book gives testimony to God's providential _____ of His people even if they are outside His _____. (Esther 2-8)
4. This book implies that behind the scenes, there is a spiritual war going on between _____ and _____.
5. The historical narrative records the _____ for the Jewish feast of _____ and became a source of encouragement to return to their land. (Esther 9-10)

E. Importance of this book to us...

1. Israel is God's _____ people, and He has _____ to bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel. (Gen. 12:1-3; Deu. 7:6-11; Ps 2:1-5)
2. Today, Israel is in unbelief, however, they are not _____ by the church. (Rom 11)
3. This story brings us hope in that God is _____ over the affairs of men and that He has a _____ for you and I. (Rom. 8:28; 11:11-12; 12:1-2; Eph. 1:7-9; 2:10)
4. Just like the Jews, prosperity, comfort, and fear _____ us from serving others and worshipping God as we should. (Col. 3:1-3; 1 Tim. 6:6-10; Heb. 12:1; Jam. 1:12; 1 Jn. 2:15-17)
5. God is always _____ behind the scenes for His people and His church, His plans will not _____! (Rom. 8:28; Phil 2:13; Jn. 16:33; 1 Jn. 5:4-5)
6. Though Satan may _____ to be winning, he has already _____ the war. (Gen. 3:15; Jn. 19:30; Titus 3:4-7; Rev. 20:1-3, 7-10; Rev 21)
7. God is faithful even when we are not, _____ Him. (2 Tim. 2:13)
8. God is an ever-present _____ in time of trouble. (Ps. 46:1)
9. God never takes a day _____, He is _____ His people. (Ps. 121:4; Heb. 13:5; Rom. 8:38-39; Jn. 10:7-16, 28-29)

F. God's providence

1. Divine providence is God's activity that _____ His creation and _____ out His plan for it.
2. God's providence does not nullify human responsibility, nor does He override our free will but rather _____ for these things in His plan.
3. God's providence for Israel is _____ in Scripture for our _____ so that we, the church, can _____ His providence for us. (Rom. 15:4)
4. In order to _____ God's will, you must be willing to _____ God's will. (Jn. 7:17; Pro 3:5-6)