



# BEAUTIFUL SOVEREIGNTY

ESTHER 1-2

# THE RETURN FROM CAPTIVITY

## TIMELINE



# Books of the Bible

## Law

(5)

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

## History

(10)

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1 & 2 Samuel  
1 & 2 Kings  
1 & 2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

## Poetry/Wisdom

(5)

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon

## Major Prophets

(5)

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel

## Minor Prophets

(12)

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

## History Life of

Jesus (4)

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John

## History of the

Church (1)

Acts

## Paul's Letters to

Churches (9)

Romans  
1 & 2 Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians

## Paul's Letters to

Individuals

(4)  
1 & 2 Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon

## Letters by Others

(9)

Hebrews  
James  
1 & 2 Peter  
1, 2 & 3 John  
Jude  
Revelation

1

God is always at **work** and in **control** even when you can't **see Him**.

# Characters of the Book of Esther

**HAMAN:** Evil loser who tries to destroy Jews and later dies.

## ESTHER 1:1-5 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush:

## ESTHER 1:1-5 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa, <sup>3</sup> and in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet



ESTHER 1:1-5 (NIV)

for all his nobles and officials. The military leaders of Persia and Media, the princes, and the nobles of the provinces were present.

### ESTHER 1:1-5 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty. <sup>5</sup> When these days were over,

ESTHER 1:1-5 (NIV)

the king gave a banquet, lasting seven days,  
in the enclosed garden of the king's palace,

ESTHER 1:1-5 (NIV)

for all the people from the least to the greatest  
who were in the citadel of Susa.

ESTHER 1:8 (NIV)

By the king's command each guest was allowed  
to drink with no restrictions,

ESTHER 1:8 (NIV)

for the king instructed all the wine stewards  
to serve each man what he wished.

ESTHER 1:9-11 (NIV)

9 Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes.

ESTHER 1:9-11 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him—



ESTHER 1:9-11 (NIV)  
Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha,  
Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas—

ESTHER 1:9-11 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown,  
in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles,

ESTHER 1:9-11 (NIV)

for she was lovely to look at.

ESTHER 1:12 (NIV)

But when the attendants delivered the king's command,  
Queen Vashti refused to come.

ESTHER 1:12 (NIV)

Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

ESTHER 1:19-20 (NIV)

<sup>19</sup> “Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws of Persia and Media,

ESTHER 1:19-20 (NIV)

which cannot be repealed, that Vashti is never again  
to enter the presence of King Xerxes.

ESTHER 1:19-20 (NIV)

Also let the king give her royal position  
to someone else who is better than she.



ESTHER 1:19-20 (NIV)

<sup>20</sup> Then when the king's edict is proclaimed throughout all his vast realm, all the women will respect their husbands,

ESTHER 1:19-20 (NIV)  
from the least to the greatest.”

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ESTHER 2:1-4 (NIV)

Later when King Xerxes' fury had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her.

ESTHER 2:1-4 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> Then the king's personal attendants proposed,  
“Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king.”

ESTHER 2:1-4 (NIV)

3 Let the king appoint commissioners in every province of his realm to bring all these beautiful young women into the harem



ESTHER 2:1-4 (NIV)

at the citadel of Susa. Let them be placed under the care of Hegai,  
the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women;

ESTHER 2:1-4 (NIV)

and let beauty treatments be given to them. <sup>4</sup> Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti.”

ESTHER 2:1-4 (NIV)

This advice appealed to the king, and he followed it.

ESTHER 2:5-11 (NIV)

5 Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish,

ESTHER 2:5-11 (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by  
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon,

ESTHER 2:5-11 (NIV)

among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah.

ESTHER 2:5-11 (NIV)

7 Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother.

ESTHER 2:5-11 (NIV)

This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful.



ESTHER 2:5-11 (NIV)

Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.

ESTHER 2:5-11 (NIV)

8 When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the citadel of Susa

ESTHER 2:5-11 (NIV)

and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem.

ESTHER 2:5-11 (NIV)

9 She pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food.

ESTHER 2:5-11 (NIV)

He assigned to her seven female attendants  
selected from the king's palace

ESTHER 2:5-11 (NIV)  
and moved her and her attendants  
into the best place in the harem.

ESTHER 2:5-11 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so.

ESTHER 2:5-11 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her.



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ESTHER 2:12 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> Before a young woman's turn came to go in to King Xerxes, she had to complete twelve months of beauty treatments

ESTHER 2:12 (NIV)

prescribed for the women, six months with oil of myrrh and six with perfumes and cosmetics.

1 SAMUEL 16:7 (NIV)

The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

1 SAMUEL 16:7 (NIV)

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him.

PROVERBS 31:30-31 (NIV)  
Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

PROVERBS 31:30-31 (NIV)

<sup>31</sup> Honor her for all that her hands have done,  
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.





## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Do you value more of what the world values  
or of what God values at this point in your life?

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS**  
Where are you stuck caring about  
the world's obsession with appearance?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What do you value in others?

Do you tend to look at the outside or the heart?

ESTHER 2:15-18 (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> When the turn came for Esther (the young woman Mordecai had adopted, the daughter of his uncle Abihail) to go to the king,

ESTHER 2:15-18 (NIV)

she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested.

ESTHER 2:15-18 (NIV)

And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her. <sup>16</sup> She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal residence in the tenth month,

ESTHER 2:15-18 (NIV)

the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.



ESTHER 2:15-18 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women,

ESTHER 2:15-18 (NIV)

and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen

ESTHER 2:15-18 (NIV)

instead of Vashti. <sup>18</sup> And the king gave a great banquet,  
Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials.

ESTHER 2:15-18 (NIV)

He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces  
and distributed gifts with royal liberality.

ESTHER 2:15-18 (NIV)

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## KAREN JOBES

“Other than Jesus, even the godliest people of the Bible were flawed, often confused, and sometime outright disobedient.”

KAREN JOBES

We are no different.”

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**HEGAI:** King's eunuch who gave Esther good advice to win the king's favor.

2

God's **invisible hand** is working to **deliver His people** in a **broken world**.

ROMANS 5:8 (NIV)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

EPHESIANS 5:25-27 (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church  
and gave himself up for her,

EPHESIANS 5:25-27 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her  
by the washing of water with the word,

EPHESIANS 5:25-27 (NIV)

<sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor,  
without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,

EPHESIANS 5:25-27 (NIV)

that she might be holy and without blemish.

ISAIAH 53:2-5 (NIV)

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.



ISAIAH 53:2-5 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

ISAIAH 53:2-5 (NIV)

Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

ISAIAH 53:2-5 (NIV)

4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

ISAIAH 53:2-5 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him,

ISAIAH 53:2-5 (NIV)

and by his wounds we are healed.

3

Desire a beautiful role in God's plan.