



MISSION CITY

BIBLE CHURCH

DATE: Sunday, April 30, 2023
TITLE: Esther: Introduction
SERIES: The Book of Esther
PASSAGE: Various Passages

INTRO:

3 KEY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BOOK OF ESTHER:

1. Who are the main players in the book?

Esther 1:1-3

Esther 1:9

Esther 3:1-2

Esther 2:5-7

2. Where are we in history?

cf., Genesis 3:15

cf., Genesis 12:1-3

cf., Ezra 6-7

"The kingdom of God is God's _____ in God's _____ under God's _____ and _____" (Vaughan Roberts, *God's Big Picture*)

3. What should we be looking for?

a. _____: "God's _____ and _____ in the everyday events of life to bring about his purposes"

b. _____

c. _____



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When have you been thrust into circumstances that caused you to question God? What did you learn / are you learning from that experience?
2. Who are the five key players in Esther and what role do they play in her life? See 1:1-3, 1:9, 3:1-2, 2:5-7.
3. We are not told why Queen Vashti refused to come at the King's demand, but she likely never expected her decision to have lifelong consequences. What were the queen's consequences for refusing the king (1:10-21)?
4. When have you experienced unexpected or harsh consequences for a rash decision? How did you respond? What have you learned from that experience?

In the time of Esther, God's people have been removed from God's place (the Promised Land) because they refused to live under God's rule and blessing.

5. What is Mordecai's relationship to Esther that gives him the right to speak into her life (2:7)? What caution does Mordecai give Esther, and what can you learn from it (4:13)?

As we marvel at Esther's brave obedience, we can't help but think of another who stood in the gap for us. Like the Jewish people in the book of Esther, we face an enemy who is scheming against us.

6. Who intervenes on our behalf, and how does He secure our deliverance?
7. Why should the above truth provide hope in every hopeless circumstance?

APPLICATION:

God's name is not mentioned once in the book of Esther, yet His fingerprints are all over the story. List as many ways as you can how God was working in the background of the book of Esther to bring about the deliverance of His people.

Now, imagine how God might be working in the background of your life. If you've been struggling to trust the Lord, ask him for the faith to believe He is at work. If you believe He is working, but fearsome circumstances or delays tempt you to doubt, ask God for faith and patience in your longsuffering.