Return from Exile

Esther becomes Queen
Esther 1-5
Lesson 14

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
December 5, 2010
The Word of God in Esther

- Heroic narrative literature
- Controversial in Biblical literature
- A display of God’s providence
The People of God in Esther

- Faith – salvation – righteousness
- Hope – the coming King
- Sovereignty of God – absolute dominion
- Joshua 1:8 – God’s Word – “day and night”
- Psalm 37:4 – Delight yourself in the LORD
Portrait of a believer – faith

- Justification by faith
- Sanctification by faith
- Abraham – pattern of faith
- Israel – a holy nation
Portrait of a believer – hope

- Enoch – Genesis 5:21-24; Jude 14-15
- Lamech – Genesis 5:28-29
- Abraham – Genesis 15:1; 17:7-8
- Abraham – a city not found – Heb. 11:10, 13
- Promise not received – Heb. 11:39-40
Portrait of a believer – hope

- The city is Jerusalem
- 2 Chronicles 6:5-6 – 2 Kings 21:7
- Psalm 132:13-14
- Isaiah 59:20
- Haggai 2:6
- Zechariah 1:17 and 2:12
- Revelation 21 – the New Jerusalem
Guidance for life in exile

Jeremiah 29:10 – 70 years of captivity
Daniel 6 – prayed toward Jerusalem
Daniel 9:25 – restoration of Jerusalem
Ezra 1 – Decree of Cyrus – Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel
Ezra 7:10 – resolved to teach *in Israel* . . .
Nehemiah 1 – sadness for Jerusalem
Haggai 2:6-7 – a future glory for “this house”
Zechariah 2:12 – LORD will again choose Jerusalem
Zechariah 9:9-10 – Your King comes . . .
Queen Vashti is deposed – Esther 1

Ahasuerus (Xerxes) (519 BC to 465 BC)
Queen Vashti is deposed – Esther 1

- The king’s feast – display his greatness
- The king’s fury – drunken demand
- Counsel of wise men
  Remove the queen
  Decree honor for husbands
Esther becomes queen – Esther 2:1-18

- The counsel of his young men – a royal harem
- Introduction of Mordecai and Esther
  - Mordecai – 3rd generation in exile from Israel; step-father of Esther – possible official (2:19; 3:2-3)
  - Esther – orphan; cousin of Mordecai; very beautiful
- Esther becomes queen
Esther becomes queen – Esther 2:1-18

- Is Esther a model for our daughters?
- God’s revealed plan – a holy nation
- Joseph in Egypt – directions for his bones
- Other captives: Daniel and his 3 companions; Nehemiah; Ezra
- What risk? – Vashti only banished!
- Concealed her heritage (2:10, 20)
Mordecai protects the king (2:19-23)

- Plot by 2 eunuchs (2:21)
- Mordecai told Esther who told the king
- Investigation and execution
- Mordecai’s submission to the king
Haman’s hatred for Mordecai (3:1-15)

▪ Haman the Agagite
  – Amalekites – Ex. 17:8-16; Deut. 25:17-19; 1 Sam. 14:47-15:35
  – Mordecai disobeyed the king’s command – no homage to Haman

▪ The fury of Haman – against all Jews
  – Is Mordecai a blessing or a curse?
  – God’s provision already in place

▪ Haman’s plan (12th year)
  – Casting lots for the favorable time – Pur = lot or chance or fate
  – “destroy, kill, annihilate all Jews – young and old, women and children”
  – Confusion in Susa
Mordecai’s plan – Esther 4

- Distress in the Jewish community
- Mordecai’s plan
- Esther’s reluctance
- Mordecai’s admonition
  - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego: Daniel 3:17-18
  - The instructions from Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:1-10
  - The prayer of Solomon: 2 Chronicles 6:36-39
- Esther’s fatalism – “If I perish, I perish!”
Esther received by the king – Esther 5:1-8

Esther wins favor from the king
First feast with Ahasuerus and Haman
Request will be at the second feast
Haman’s gallows – Esther 5:9-14

- No joy for Haman – no peace for the wicked
  - Splendor of royalty and favor by king and queen.
  - Hatred for Mordecai’s lack of honor (5:13)
  - Wife’s counsel
    - Build gallows for Mordecai
    - Ask the king for permission to hang Mordecai
    - Go joyfully to the feast

- The gallows are prepared

- Providence of God – preparation for vengeance
Heroic or Tragic?

- The need for spiritual perspective in life
- A life driven by faith and hope
- Righteousness – 1 John 3:2; 2 Peter 3:10-13