**STUDY GUIDE - THE BOOK OF ESTER**

DISCIPLES WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

OCTOBER 12, 2020 9:30 AM - zoom

The Book of Esther is a romantic, patriotic tale possibly with some historical basis. The book purports to explain how the feast of Purim came to be celebrated by the Jews. A massacre is plotted by the king's chief minister, Haman, and the date decided by casting lots (purim). Sinister plots are thwarted. Vile enemies are defeated. Strength of character shines forth. True loyalty is rewarded.  It all combines for a classic happy ending.  

Please read the book of Esther before the meeting.  The main theme is that God is working behind the scenes. There was a divine purpose for all the decisions and details documented in the story, yet none of that becomes apparent until the end. God was arranging all these “secular” events to bring about His divine purpose to save the Jews.

Follow along with the writer as the story unfolds.....

* Look for clues telling you when and where the story is taking place.
* Who is mentioned and what part do they play?
* What events have taken place?
* What is happening now?
* How do the main characters respond to their situation?

Study Questions

1. After reading [Esth. 1:7-12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Esther.%201.7-12), what can you infer regarding the character of King Ahasuerus?
2. Compare [Esth. 3:10-13](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Esther.%203.10-13) with [Esth. 8:8-12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Esther.%208.8-12). What similarities do you find? Why do you think this is so?
3. What did Mordecai ask Esther to do in [Esth. 1:10](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Esther.%201.10)? What could be a reason for him to do this?
4. What did Esther ask Mordecai to do for her in [Esth. 4:15-17](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Esther.%204.15-17)? Why do you think she did this? What did she and Mordecai believe that made them do this?
5. At the end of the story, Mordecai finds himself in a great place of influence and authority. How did he get there?