

# Esther 1:1-8

## Week 1 - Overview

Esther 1:1 This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush: 2 At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa, 3 and in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. The military leaders of Persia and Media, the princes, and the nobles of the provinces were present. 4 For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty. 5 When these days were over, the king gave a banquet, lasting seven days, in the enclosed garden of the king's palace, for all the people from the least to the greatest, who were in the citadel of Susa. 6 The garden had hangings of white and blue linen, fastened with cords of white linen and purple material to silver rings on marble pillars. There were couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and other costly stones. 7 Wine was served in goblets of gold, each one different from the other, and the royal wine was abundant, in keeping with the king's liberality. 8 By the king's command each guest was allowed to drink in his own way, for the king instructed all the wine stewards to serve each man what he wished.

- The book of Esther does not have one **prophetic** word in it--no vision or dream which allows God to speak.
- God's **silence** does not mean God is not there.
- In Esther, God is not hiding...God is just **hidden**.

How does Esther reveal **redemptive** history?

- If Haman had his way every Jew would be killed, thus no **lineage** to Christ.
- Satan knows Christ is coming, and his plan is to destroy the **offspring** that would one day crush his head.
- In Exodus his plan was to **drown** in the Nile every boy two years and under to make sure the plans of God could not come to his end.
- Satan has no new plans. He simply wants now to destroy the **testimony** in every believer by his relentless temptations he brings our way.
- Satan's plan today is to attack our **pride**. He whispers in our ears daily and keeps us **self-absorbed**.

But God has a plan in place that cannot be **undone** by any of Satan's tools:

1. The **providence** of God  
Warren Wiersbe "It's God attention **concentrated** everywhere."
2. God, in keeping His promises to preserve His people from Satan's plan, places Esther and Mordecai in a position of **power**.

3. God will give every believer the same opportunities to come to Him with a **surrendered** heart.
4. Opportunity for the believer is not trying to somehow overcome **disappointments**. It's learning to turn them into an opportunity to show off God.
  - What is opportunity then? A favorable occasion to grasp God's **appointment** that will accomplish His purpose.
  - Coincidences found in Esther are truly the **fingerprints** of the hand of God at work.
  - Esther just happens to be **Jewish** and beautiful and just happens to find **favor** with the king.
  - Mordecai just happens to overhear a **plot** against the king's life.
  - The report of Mordecai's **faithfulness** just happens to be written in the king's chronicles.
  - Haman just happens to notice **Mordecai** does not kneel down before him. He also just happens to find out he is also a Jew.
  - Although God is hidden it just happens that God is in **control**...not chance or luck----divine appointments.
  - Does God somehow lose his **sovereignty** in what is happening in the world?
  - The book of Esther becomes merely a story of Mordecai's wisdom and Esther's **courage**.
  - So here is what we learn about God in this book: God Himself acts to achieve the **total defeat** of His foes and He acts in response to the **prayers** of His people.
5. God delivers His people sometimes by **ordinary** ways. God does significant work through what seems to be really **insignificant** events in our lives.

### Final Thoughts

This study will stretch my faith and hopefully yours. We will see in this book how God is exalted and Jesus is revealed in their lives and hopefully in our lives.