

# Why Study ESTHER?

In a time of exile when Israel had forgotten about God, the book of Esther proves that God had not forgotten about them. God's ongoing providence is on display in the least likely circumstances. A great story, and even better that it's actually true!

*“Providence is God at the steering wheel of the universe. It’s the way God coaches the man who is on second base. Providence means that God is behind the scenes, shifting and directing the happenings of the world. Providence is God’s hand in the glove of history, and that glove will never move until He moves it.”*

—Dr. J. Vernon McGee

## PLAYERS IN OUR DRAMA



**ESTHER:** The new beauty queen of Persia. A Jewish orphan raised by her cousin, Mordecai.



**HAMAN:** Persia's top appointed official. He plots the extermination of the Jewish race.



**MORDECAI:** Esther's cousin. Used by God to save His people. Hated by Haman.



**XERXES:** King of Persia. One of the most powerful men in the world. Wants to trade up on his wife.



**GOD:** The Director of history, leading from the shadows, protecting His people.

*“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” -Esther 4:14*



## LIFE LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF ESTHER

- Favor changes everything.
- Love your life but not unto death.
- God is at work behind the scenes, strategically aligning circumstances to accomplish His will.
- Sometimes you end up in the most unlikely place and are asked to do seemingly impossible feats—but God is there with you.
- God has total authority over our lives, over history, over evil.
- Fasting and prayer are sometimes the best things to do when faced with difficult situations.