

The Book of Esther

A study using 18 questions per chapter
The purpose of this study is to find out
What the Bible says.



THE WORD FOR THE WORLD
STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
by
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INSTRUCTIONS

or suggestions as to how to conduct this study.

I can only suggest how this study was originally conducted and it was very successful. First of all, we tried to arrange a very informal atmosphere with the folks sitting in a loose circle. We would begin the session by having tea, or cokes and an informal time of fellowship. Then we would have a prayer time with everyone suggesting names of those for whom we should pray. It was also mentioned each session that we expected that each individual have at least one person for whom they would agree to pray for in regards to that person's salvation.

To actually begin the study the entire chapter would be read aloud with each one willing to read, taking the number of verses and dividing it by the number of people present and each one reading a portion.

Then the first one on the left (a habit of mine) would begin by reading the first question and giving their answer. The verse where their answer was found must also be given. Then the leader asks if everybody agrees. Let discussion carry on as necessary but not too long. Then go to the next question and the next person until all of the fifteen questions are answered.

For the discussion questions (numbers 16-17-18) each person present should give their answer once again going from the first one on the left and so on. Answer one question at a time, with each person present giving their reasons for their answer to each question. Discussion can be long or short depending on how the group feels. Do not carry the class session on too long.

Encourage each one to prepare his answers BEFORE the session begins if at all possible only because they will get more out of the discussion if they have thought about it.

INTRODUCTION

This book was written during the reign of Xerxes in Susa Persia. It speaks of a beautiful Jewish girl that King Xerxes had chosen to be his queen. Haman set up a plot to murder all of the Jews and Mordecai, Esther's cousin persuaded her to go to the king to plead for her people. To do this was to risk her own life just to be able to talk with the king. God's name does not appear in this book but his care for his people is unmistakable. The rescue of the Jews is celebrated annually at the Feast of Purim and this book of Esther is read aloud during that time.

The Book Of Esther - Chapter 1
SHORT ANSWERS

1. What did King Xerxes do in the third year of his reign? _____
_____. Verse _____
2. What did Queen Vasti do at the same time? _____
_____. Verse _____
3. After 187 days what did King Xerxes decide to do? _____ . Verse _____
4. How would the disobedience of the Queen affect the women in the rest of the kingdom?
_____. Verse _____
5. So what was the advice given to the King about getting a new queen? _____
_____. Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ The king showed off his great wealth to all his leaders.
7. _____ All wine was served the same way no matter where you came from.
8. _____ The disobedience of the queen was a personal affair.
9. _____ The king had wise men to consult in all matters of law and justice.
10. _____ A man should be ruler in his own household.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Was the king's garden open for all to see?
12. _____ Was the material of the pillars granite?
13. _____ Did the 7 wise men have special access to the king?
14. _____ Once a law was written down in Persia could it be repealed?
15. _____ Were there different languages spoken throughout the kingdom?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
18. What did you learn?

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY: (The following questions could be used in place of or in addition to the ones in the lessons for those who are more advanced in Bible knowledge.)

1. What does this chapter teach about Jesus?
2. What does this chapter teach about God?
3. What does this chapter teach about the Holy Spirit?
4. Does this chapter contain promises to be received, commands to be obeyed or warnings to be heeded?

The Book Of Esther - Chapter 2
SHORT ANSWERS

1. How was King Xerxes going to select a new queen? _____
_____. Verse _____
2. How were the women to be prepared to appear before the king? _____
_____. Verse _____
3. What was Esther's other name? _____ . Verse _____
4. How was Esther received by everyone she met? _____ . Verse _____
5. How did Mordecai come to the king's attention? _____
_____. Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ Esther was of the Tribe of Benjamin.
7. _____ Beauty treatments were the only special thing given to the girls.
8. _____ No girl could be presented before the king before a year had passed.
9. _____ After being presented before the king a girl could ask and go back to see the king at any time.
10. _____ Bigthana and Teresh were plotting to kill the king.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Was there only a certain number of girls who were to be brought before the king?
12. _____ Was the king pleased at the suggestion of getting a beautiful new queen?
13. _____ Did the king know Esther's background?
14. _____ Did each girl spend the night with the king?
15. _____ Was there a record kept of everything that went on?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
18. What did you learn?

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The Book Of Esther - Chapter 3
SHORT ANSWERS

1. What did the king do to Haman? _____. Verse _____
2. Why wouldn't Mordecai bow down to Haman? _____. Verse _____
3. Why did Haman want to kill ALL the Jews? _____. Verse _____
4. What was given to Haman that gave him the authority to order the slaughter of the Jews? _____
_____. Verse _____
5. What was the reaction in Susa to this order? _____ Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ Mordecai told the officials that being a Jew had nothing to do with not bowing down, he just didn't want to do it.
7. _____ Haman ordered all the Jews except the beautiful women to be killed.
8. _____ The king told Haman to "Keep your money" that he was going to pay to those who killed the Jews.
9. _____ In a single day ALL the Jews were to be killed.
10. _____ The king and Haman drank together.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Do you think that being given great honor goes to a man's head?
12. _____ Would Haman have been content to just kill Mordecai?
13. _____ Did King Xerxes actually write the law himself to kill the Jews?
14. _____ Were the little children of the Jews to be killed also?
15. _____ Do you have any idea why the city of Susa was bewildered?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
18. What did you learn?

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The Book Of Esther - Chapter 4
SHORT ANSWERS

1. When Mordecai learned of the decree what did he do? _____
_____. Verse _____
2. What did Mordecai ask Esther to do? _____ . Verse _____
3. When Esther hesitated, what did Mordecai tell her? _____
_____. Verse _____
4. When Esther agreed to do what Mordecai told her, what did she ask him to do? _____
_____. Verse _____
5. Who said, "If I perish, I perish?" _____ . Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ When Esther sent clean clothes to Mordecai, he immediately put them on.
7. _____ Because she was queen, Esther did not think that she would die.
8. _____ Esther was served by maids and eunuchs who were loyal to her.
9. _____ God put people where he wants them at the right time on purpose.
10. _____ All the Jews fasted for three days.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Did Mordecai put on sackcloth and ashes and enter the King's gate?
12. _____ Did Queen Esther know about the decree before Mordecai told her?
13. _____ Had Queen Esther even seen the King in the last month?
14. _____ Was there a strict law about going to see the king?
15. _____ Did Queen Esther know that asking to see the king might cost her life?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
18. What did you learn?

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The Book Of Esther - Chapter 5
SHORT ANSWERS

1. What did Queen Esther do so that the king would see her and invite her to come to him? _____. Verse _____
2. What 2 people did Esther invite to a feast? _____. Verse _____
3. While at the feast what 2 people did she invite to a second feast? _____. Verse _____
4. How did Haman react to these invitations? _____. Verse _____
5. What suggestion was made to settle the matter with Mordecai? _____. Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ Queen Esther did not ask her favor right away.
7. _____ This is the second mention of the king and Haman drinking together.
8. _____ Haman was pleased that he was invited along with the king.
9. _____ When Haman was going home Mordecai finally bowed down to him.
10. _____ Gallows were built for a hanging.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Was it a wise plan to wear her royal robes so the king would see her?
12. _____ Do you think the king was serious about this half the kingdom offer?
13. _____ Did Mordecai upset Haman again by his actions?
14. _____ Do you think Zeresh, Haman's wife hated the Jews also?
15. _____ Was Haman planning a PUBLIC hanging?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
18. What did you learn?

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The Book Of Esther - Chapter 6
SHORT ANSWERS

1. What did King Xerxes do when he could not sleep? _____
_____. Verse _____
2. Who did Haman think the king was wanting to honor? _____ . Verse _____
3. Who led Mordecai through the streets in honor? _____ . Verse _____
4. How did this affect Haman, and how was he advised by his friends now? _____
_____. Verse _____
5. Why did the king send someone to bring Haman to the palace? _____
_____. Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ The Book of Chronicles that the king read was the same one that is in our Bible.
7. _____ Nothing had been done for Mordecai after he had saved the life of the king.
8. _____ Haman had just come to the court to ask the king to hand Mordecai over.
9. _____ Haman's friends, even his wife recognized that God was protecting Mordecai.
10. _____ The king did not know what Haman was planning to do to the Jews.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Was Mordecai upset that he had not been honored for saving the king?
12. _____ Was Queen Esther involved in having Mordecai given honor?
13. _____ Do you think Mordecai was still in sackcloth and ashes when he put on the king's robe?
14. _____ Do you think it was important that the king had ridden the horse?
15. _____ Did Haman understand that he was finished?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
18. What did you learn?

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The Book of Esther - Chapter 7

SHORT ANSWERS

1. For whose lives did Queen Esther plead? _____. Verse _____
2. How did the queen's request affect the king? _____. Verse _____
3. When the king went out to the garden, what did Haman do? _____. Verse _____
4. What did Haman do that the king misunderstood? _____. Verse _____
5. Who suggested that they use the gallows prepared for Mordecai? _____. Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ The king and Haman were drinking wine together once again.
7. _____ If slavery was what would happen to the Jews would Esther have bothered the king?
8. _____ Covering Haman's face must have been significant.
9. _____ Haman was trying to harm the queen
10. _____ The gallows were put to a good use.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Do you think Queen Esther's patience paid off?
12. _____ Do you think Haman had any idea of what Queen Esther would ask for?
13. _____ Did Haman stand up boldly to defend himself to the king?
14. _____ When a king gets into a rage does something drastic usually happen?
15. _____ Do you think God worked this out in a fitting manner?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

16. What is the main theme of this chapter and why do you think so? (Can you do one word?)
17. What is the key verse and why do you think so?
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The Book of Esther - Chapter 8
SHORT ANSWERS

1. How had Haman's death affected the edict he had written in the king's name concerning the Jews? _____. Verse _____
2. What happened to the king's signet ring he had given to Haman? _____. Verse _____
3. How did Mordecai protect the Jews? _____. Verse _____
4. When Mordecai left the king's presence, how was he dressed? _____. Verse _____
5. How did the Jews react to the new edict? _____. Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ Did the king know that Mordecai was related to his queen?
7. _____ Haman's land was given to Mordecai as his own.
8. _____ Queen Esther told the king that she would have been put to death also.
9. _____ Whoever attacked the Jews were to be killed and their property given to the Jews.
10. _____ Many people of the land became Jews because of these events.

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Was Queen Esther aware that the law could not be changed?
12. _____ Was the king's signet ring used to seal official documents?
13. _____ Were special horses used to spread Mordecai's edict?
14. _____ Did the City of Susa also get a copy of Mordecai's law?
15. _____ Did Mordecai's law please the Jews?

THINK FOR YOURSELF

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The Book of Esther - Chapter 9 & 10
SHORT ANSWERS

1. Who helped the Jews in every province? _____. Verse _____
2. How many men in the city of Susa did the Jews kill? _____. Verse _____
3. How did the 10 sons of Haman die? _____. Verse _____
4. What further request did Queen Esther make? _____. Verse _____
5. What was the name given to the feast that resulted in these actions? _____. Verse _____

TRUE OR FALSE

(Put a "T" or an "F" in one blank and the verse in the other)

6. _____ When the Jews killed their enemies they took their possessions as their own.
7. _____ No mention is made that any Jews were killed on that fateful day.
8. _____ King Xerxes issued the order himself
9. _____ The name Purim comes from the word meaning "the lot"
10. _____ Mordecai became great because he worked for the good of his people

YES OR NO

(Put a "Y" or a "N" in one blank and the verse in the other)

11. _____ Was an answer given to the king as to what had been done in the rest of his country?
12. _____ Was it Esther's wish that Haman's sons be hanged?
13. _____ Did the Jews kill 75,000 people?
14. _____ Was the Feast of Purim to last for a week?
15. _____ Did Queen Esther alone write the law to observe the Purim?

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