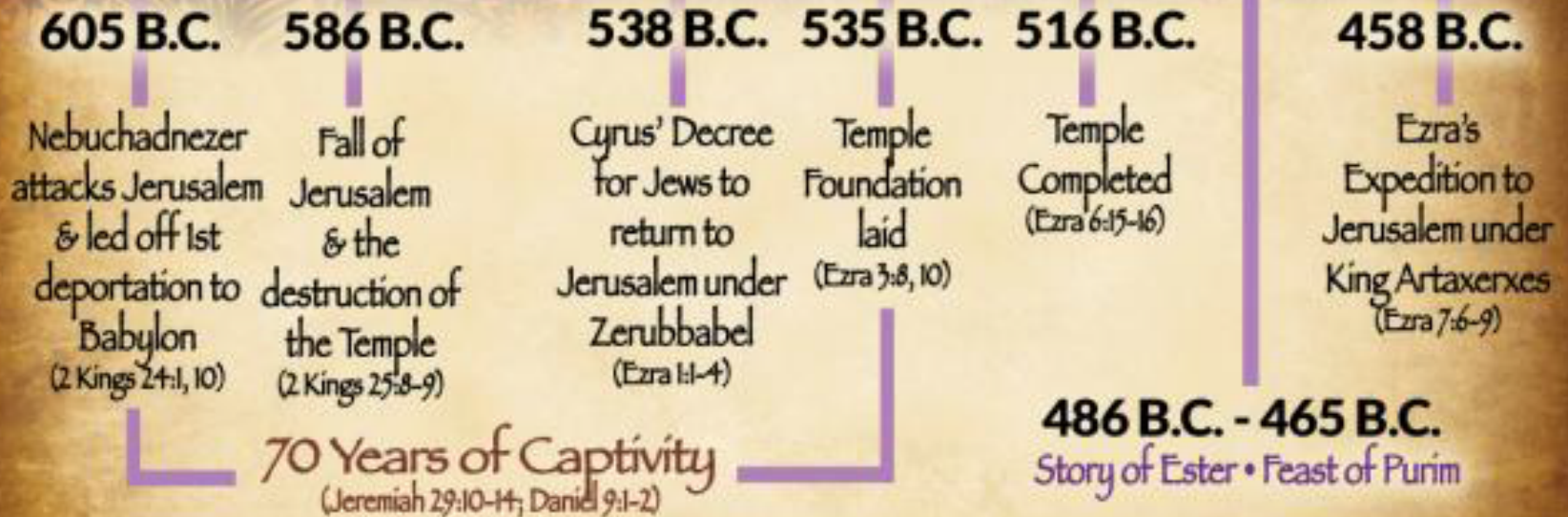


Esther

The Feast of Purim

Timeline 605 B.C. - 458 B.C.



Esther

The Feast of Purim

605 B.C.

Nebuchadnezer Attacks
Jerusalem & Led Off First
Deportation to Babylon

Esther

The Feast of Purim

2 Kings 24:1

In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant *for* three years; then he turned and rebelled against him.

2 Kings 24:10

At that time the servants of
Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon
went up to Jerusalem, and the city
came under siege.

586 B.C.

Fall of Jerusalem & the
Destruction of the Temple

Esther

The Feast of Purim

2 Kings 25:8-9

Now on the seventh day of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

He burned the house of the LORD,
the king's house, and all the houses
of Jerusalem; even every great
house he burned with fire.

538 B.C.

Cyrus' Decree for Jews to
Return to Jerusalem
Under Zerubbabel

Esther

The Feast of Purim

Ezra 1:1-4

1Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying:

2"Thus says Cyrus king of Persia,
'The LORD, the God of heaven, has
given me all the kingdoms of the
earth and He has appointed me to
build Him a house in Jerusalem,
which is in Judah.

3'Whoever there is among you of all
His people, may his God be with
him! Let him go up to Jerusalem
which is in Judah and rebuild the
house of the LORD, the God of
Israel; He is the God who is in
Jerusalem.

4'Every survivor, at whatever place
he may live, let the men of that
place support him with silver and
gold, with goods and cattle,
together with a freewill offering for
the house of God which is in
Jerusalem.'”

535 B.C.

Temple Foundation Laid

Esther

The Feast of Purim

Ezra 3:8

Now in the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all who came from the captivity to Jerusalem, began *the work* and appointed the Levites from twenty years and older to oversee the work of the house of the LORD.

Ezra 3:10

Now when the builders had laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD according to the directions of King David of Israel.

605 B.C.-535 B.C.
70 Years of Captivity

Esther
The Feast of Purim

Jeremiah 29:10-14

10"For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.'

11'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

12'Then you will call upon Me and
come and pray to Me, and I will
listen to you. 13 'You will seek Me
and find *Me* when you search for
Me with all your heart.

14'I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

Daniel 9:1-2

1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans—2 in the books the number of the years which was *revealed as* the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, *namely*, seventy years.

516 B.C.

Temple Completed

Esther

The Feast of Purim

Ezra 6:15-16

15 This temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar; it was the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

16 And the sons of Israel, the
priests, the Levites and the rest of
the exiles, celebrated the dedication
of this house of God with joy.

458 B.C.

Ezra's Expedition to
Jerusalem Under King
Artaxerxes

Esther

The Feast of Purim

Ezra 7:6-9

6 This Ezra went up from Babylon, and he was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given; and the king granted him all he requested because the hand of the LORD his God *was* upon him.

7Some of the sons of Israel and
some of the priests, the Levites, the
singers, the gatekeepers and the
temple servants went up to
Jerusalem in the seventh year of
King Artaxerxes.

8He came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.9For on the first of the first month he began to go up from Babylon; and on the first of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, because the good hand of his God *was* upon him.

God's Providence

Esther

The Feast of Purim

Proverbs 16:33

The lot is cast into the lap, But its
every decision is from the LORD.

Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Proverbs 21:30

There is no wisdom and no
understanding And no counsel
against the LORD.

Man proposes
GOD deposes

Esther
The Feast of Purim

Psalm 115:3

But our God is in the heavens; He
does whatever He pleases.

Isaiah 46:9-10

"Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

Lamentations 3:37

Who is there who speaks and it
comes to pass, Unless the Lord has
commanded *it*?

Esther 6:11-13 (NASB)

¹¹ So Haman took the robe and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and led him *on horseback* through the city square, and proclaimed before him, “Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor.”

¹² Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hurried home, mourning, with *his* head covered.

¹³ Haman recounted to Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish origin, you will not overcome him, but will surely fall before him."

GOD'S PROVIDENCE

Does Not Negate Human Responsibility

Esther 2:19-23 (NASB)

¹⁹ When the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate. ²⁰ Esther had not yet made known her kindred or her people, even as Mordecai had commanded her; for Esther did what Mordecai told her as she had done when under his care.

²¹ In those days, while Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's officials from those who guarded the door, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

²² But the plot became known to Mordecai and he told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name.

²³ Now when the plot was investigated and found *to be so*, they were both hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the Book of the Chronicles in the king's presence.

Esther 4:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ “Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.”

Matthew 28:18-19 (NASB)

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mark 16:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining *at the table*; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen. ¹⁵ And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Luke 9:1-2 (NASB)

9 And He called the twelve together,
and gave them power and authority
over all the demons and to heal
diseases. ² And He sent them out to
proclaim the kingdom of God and
to perform healing.

Acts 1:6-8 (NASB)

⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

THE ABSURDITY OF WICKEDNESS

Esther

The Feast of Purim

Esther 1:10-12 (NASB)

¹⁰ On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus,

¹¹ to bring Queen Vashti before the king with *her* royal crown in order to display her beauty to the people and the princes, for she was beautiful. ¹² But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. Then the king became very angry and his wrath burned within him.

Esther 6:1-11 (NASB)

6 During that night the king could not sleep so he gave an order to bring the book of records, the chronicles, and they were read before the king. ² It was found written what Mordecai had reported concerning Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who were doorkeepers, that they had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

³ The king said, “What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?” Then the king’s servants who attended him said, “Nothing has been done for him.” ⁴ So the king said, “Who is in the court?” Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king’s palace in order to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows which he had prepared for him.

⁵ The king's servants said to him, "Behold, Haman is standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in." ⁶ So Haman came in and the king said to him, "What is to be done for the man whom the king desires to honor?" And Haman said to himself, "Whom would the king desire to honor more than me?"

⁷ Then Haman said to the king, “For the man whom the king desires to honor, ⁸ let them bring a royal robe which the king has worn, and the horse on which the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown has been placed;

⁹ and let the robe and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble princes and let them array the man whom the king desires to honor and lead him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him, 'Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor.'"

Esther 7:8-10 (NASB)

⁸ Now when the king returned from the palace garden into the place where they were drinking wine, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, “Will he even assault the queen with me in the house?” As the word went out of the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face.

⁹ Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who *were* before the king said, “Behold indeed, the gallows standing at Haman’s house fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai who spoke good on behalf of the king!” And the king said, “Hang him on it.” ¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai, and the king’s anger subsided.

The Boomerang Effect

Esther

The Feast of Purim

Esther 9:1-2 (NASB)

9 Now in the twelfth month (that is, the month Adar), on the thirteenth day when the king's command and edict were about to be executed, on the day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, it was turned to the contrary so that the Jews themselves gained the mastery over those who hated them.

² The Jews assembled in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm; and no one could stand before them, for the dread of them had fallen on all the peoples.

**EVERYTHING GOD SAYS
IS IMPORTANT!**

Little Sins Can Have Major Consequences!

Esther

The Feast of Purim