

# The Bible Jesus Used

A Gospel-Centered Glance at  
the Old Testament

**Bethlehem Baptist Church, fall 2014**  
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# Esther at a Glance

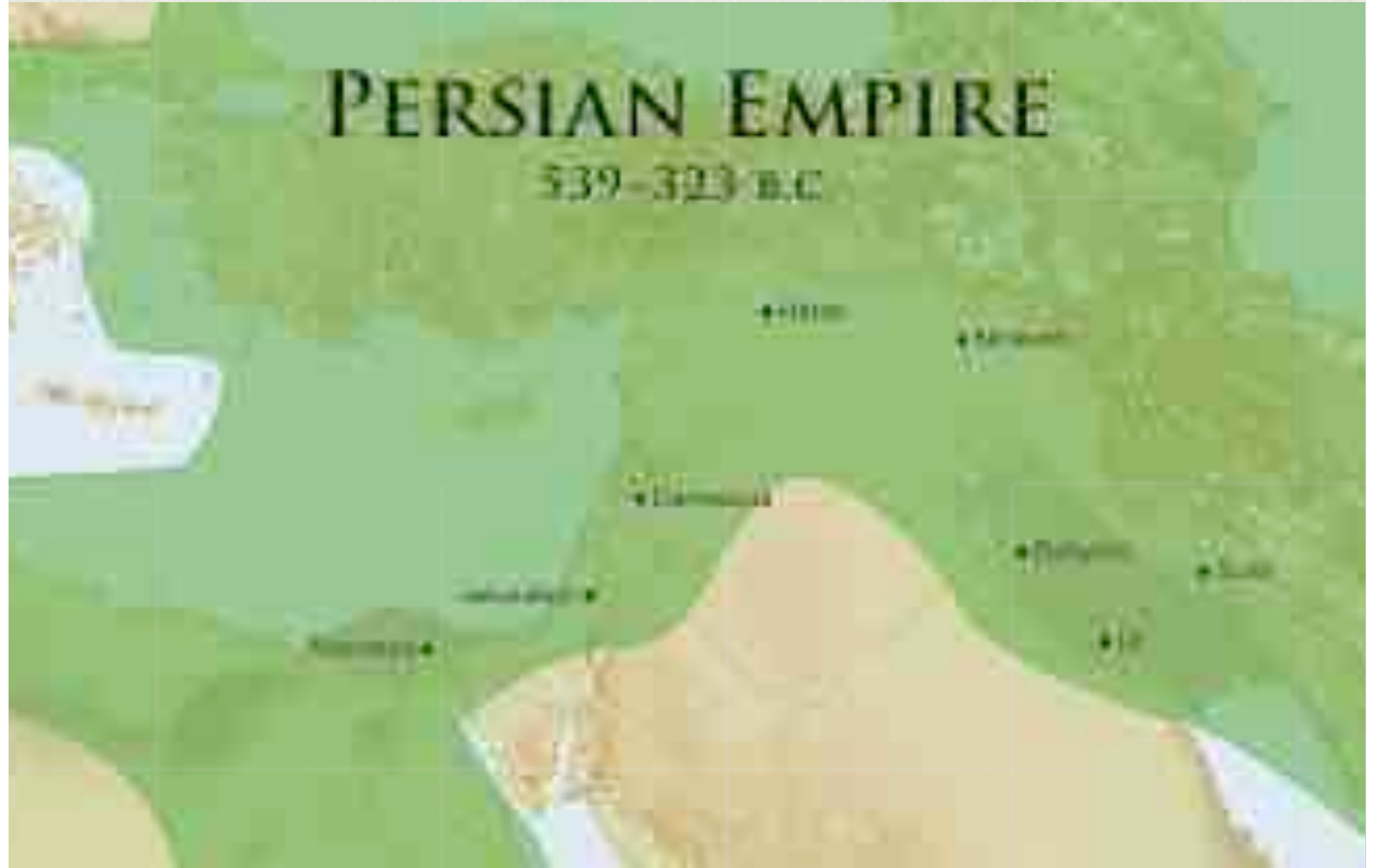
<b><i>Part 1:</i> The Setting for the Providential Preservation of God's People</b>	1:1–2:18
<b><i>Part 2:</i> The Nature of the Providential Preservation of God's People</b>	2:19–7:10
Plots against the King and the Jews	2:19–3:15
Esther Bravely Intercedes While Haman Plots	4:1–5:14
The King Rewards Mordecai and Executes Haman	6:1–7:10
<b><i>Part 3:</i> The Celebration of the Providential Preservation of God's People</b>	8:1–9:32
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# The Setting (1:1–2:18)

- ❖ **A king with only apparent authority (1:1–22).**

# PERSIAN EMPIRE

539-323 B.C.



# The Setting (1:1–2:18)

- ❖ **A king with only apparent authority (1:1–22).**
  - ❖ **Ahasuerus' greatness (1:1–9)**
  - ❖ **Ahasuerus' weakness and “chance” need for a queen (1:10–22)**

- ❖ **A new queen of Persia (2:1–18)**
  - ❖ **Get a queen! (2:1–4)**
  - ❖ **Enter the main characters (2:5–7)**
    - ❖ **The heroes intriguing heritage (2:5)**
    - ❖ **The exilic context (2:6)**
    - ❖ **The heroine (2:7)**
  - ❖ **Esther’s “luck” and her secret (2:8–18)**

# The Nature (2:19–7:10)

- ❖ **Plots against Ahasuerus and the Jews (2:19–3:15)**
  - ❖ **The king’s “chance” deliverance (2:21–23)**
  - ❖ **Enter the antagonist and his cruel plot (ch. 3)**
    - ❖ **Haman’s intriguing heritage and heinous plan (3:1–6).**
    - ❖ **The destruction of the Jews decreed (3:7–15)**

- ❖ **Esther bravely intercedes while Haman plots (4:1–5:14)**
- ❖ **The counter-offense initiated (4:1–17)**
  - ❖ **Mourning and Mordecai's charge to Esther (4:1–14)**

Esth 4:14. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?



- ❖ **Esther bravely intercedes while Haman plots (4:1–5:14)**
- ❖ **The counter-offense initiated (4:1–17)**
  - ❖ **Mourning and Mordecai's charge to Esther (4:1–14)**
  - ❖ **Esther's God-dependent charge (4:15–17)**

- ❖ **Esther bravely intercedes while Haman plots (4:1–5:14)**
  - ❖ **The counter-offense initiated (4:1–17)**
  - ❖ **The first feast and the rise of drama (5:1–8)**
  - ❖ **Haman's gallows (5:9–14)**

❖ **Ahasuerus Rewards Mordecai and Executes Haman (6:1–7:10)**

❖ **“Unexpected” humiliation (6:1–14)**

❖ **“Unexpected” honor (7:1–10)**

❖ **The second feast and the revealing of Haman’s plot (7:1–6)**

❖ **The abating of Ahasuerus’ wrath (7:7–10)**

# The Celebration (chs. 8–9)

- ❖ **The Enemies of the Jews Defeated (8:1–9:19)**
  - ❖ **Mordecai's exaltation (8:1–2)**
  - ❖ **The new counter-decree (8:3–17)**
    - ❖ **The plea (8:3–8)**
    - ❖ **Mordecai's authoritative declaration (8:9–14)**
    - ❖ **The Jews' joy (8:14–17)**
  - ❖ **The great reversal and the seeds of kingdom hope (9:1–19)**

- ❖ **The Establishment of Purim (9:20–32)**
  - ❖ **The call to keep an annual feast (9:20–28)**
    - ❖ **Called “Purim” in recollection of Haman’s casting of “lots” (9:24–26; cf. 3:7).**
    - ❖ **A day of remembrance, joy, and giving to the poor (9:22).**
  - ❖ **The command to keep Purim (9:29–32)**

# Epilogue (ch. 10)

## ❖ **Mordecai is Honored (10:1–3)**

# The Lasting Message

- ❖ **God's providential care is mysterious but real.**
  - ❖ **By “chance” the orphan became queen.**
  - ❖ **By “chance” Mordecai overheard the plot to assassinate the king and saved him.**
  - ❖ **Haman relies on “chance” to determine when best to destroy the Jews, but the same timing ends up being their exaltation.**
  - ❖ **By “chance” the king gave favor to Esther, which opened the door for her invitation to the feasts.**

- ❖ **“By chance” the king read in his royal chronicles of Mordecai and decided to honor him.**
- ❖ **Ironically, Haman’s passion to exalt himself resulted in Mordecai’s exaltation.**
- ❖ **Ironically, Haman’s plot to hang Mordecai resulted in his own hanging on the same gallows.**
- ❖ **Ironically, the king placed Mordecai over Haman’s estate with all his authority.**

**God’s providential care is mysterious but real!**



❖ **Everything happens with God-ordained purpose.**

❖ **Ahasuerus stands a foil to God who holds true sway in the universe.**

❖ **God was in charge of all: Vashti's removal, the choice of Esther as queen, Mordecai's discovery of the plot to kill the king and his *not* being rewarded so that Haman could later be humiliated, Esther's receiving the gold scepter, the king's sleepless night in which he discovers that he had failed to honor Mordecai, the elevation of Esther and Mordecai so as to deliver the Jews, etc.**

**“For those who love God *all things* work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose” (Rom 8:28).**

- ❖ **We should have hope in God's power and faithfulness.**
- ❖ **God will preserve his own to the end.**
  - ❖ **Esth 4:4. If you keep silent, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this.**

- ❖ **God will curse those who curse his people (Gen 12:3; Num 24:9).**
- ❖ **Yahweh declared a war of judgment against the Amalekites (Exod 17:8–16; cf. Deut 25:17–19; 1 Sam 15:2).**
- ❖ **Saul, a Benjamite and son of Kish (1 Sam 9:1–2), failed to kill Agag, king of the Amalekites (1 Sam 15:8–9, 19–22).**
- ❖ **Haman was an “Agagite” (Esth 3:1, 10; 8:3, 5; 9:24), and Mordecai, a Benjamite and son of Kish (2:5), was the instrument of the Agagite’s downfall—both him and his family (7:10; 9:14).**
- ❖ **The Lord is both power and faithful, and he will continue to be.**