# CHARTING THE SCRIPTURES ESTHER by Jonathan Black

Esther (Persian) meaning 'star'

# SEEING GOD IN A SECULAR SOCIETY

Hadassah (Hebrew) meaning 'Myrtle'

A Jewish woman God used to preserve the nation

### Ruth

A Gentile woman who God used to preserve the seed.

Captivity 605 BC

DANIEL

#### ZECHARIAH Message - Revelation

CYRUS THE GREAT | CAMBYSES I (Xerxes) |

550

Message - Reconciliation Confession of one man A communication of the on behalf of the nation future of the nation

**EZRA** Message - Revival Construction of the altar and revival of the nation

**DARIUS** 

Esther Message - Reversal

The commitment of one woman to save the nation

First return under Zerubbabel 538 BC 🔱 🖚 Events in the book of Ezra (538-458 BC) Second return under Ezra 458 BC — 🗡 2 Third return under Nehemiah 444 BC 3 Events in book of Neh. (445-425 BC)

XERXES I

# HAGGAI

Message - Rebuking Consider the ways of the nation

**ARTAXERXES I** 

NEHEMIAH Message - Rebuilding Constructing the wall of the city

MALACHI Message - Responsibility Contempt for the sins of the nation chosen by God

XERXES II

1) Xerxes 1 2) Astyages the father of Cyrus

Ahaseurus

There are two views on the identity of Ahaseurus

so that would make Esther the mother of Cyrus, influential in his decree for the return of the Jews from captivity

# Persia



The city of Shushan (Susa) is located in modern day Iran and was discovered in 1851 Its ruins are now a world heritage site.

#### Esther outline

The first decree 1-2

Ahasuerus' reign The Queen dismissed

Esther's royal crown King's deliverance

### The second decree 3-7

Mordecai's refusal

Haman despises him

Mordecai's recommendation Esther decides to trust God

Esther's request

Haman's deceit Mordecai's reward

Haman's disappointment

Esther reveals the truth Haman reaps what he sows

Ahasuerus reverses the law

The enemy must be destroyed

# KING AHASUERUS

His wealth, 1. 4

His wrath, 1. 12; 7. 7

His worry, 6. 1

1. 19; 2. 23; 3. 9; 10. 2

### **OUEEN ESTHER**

500

Faithful & favoured in her family, 2.7

in her favour, 2. 17 Her fear, 4, 11

Her faith, 4. 16 Her feasts, 5. 5; 7. 1; 9. 19

### HAMAN

Proud & Presumptious in his promotion, 3.1

in his plot, 3. 9 in his pride, 6. 6

in his presumption, 7.5 in his punishment, 7.9

## **MORDECAI**

Walking with wisdom in his approach, 2. 5 in his attention, 2. 11

in his attitude, 3. 4 in his advice, 4. 12

in his advancement, 6. 11; 10. 2

'and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this', Esther 4.14

Years of King's reign

C. Haman is promoted, 3. 1-6

D. Haman's plot to kill Jews, 3. 7-15

Feasts in Palace of King and

Oueen, 1, 3

Palace, 2.16

Haman's

Month - 1(Nisan). 3(Sivan) 12(Adar) Haman's Haman's Jews to be plot, 3. 7 post, 3. 13 killed on 13th

Jews kill 300 on 14th in overruled, 8, 12 Shushan & make 2 feast days, 9. 17

12 (Adar)

The Persian Empire (559-530 BC)

# 'which reigned, from Caspian India even to Ethiopia' Esther 1.1 Mediterranean Sea Ecbatana Jerusalem Susa (Shushan) **EGYPT** Pasargadae

Purim is still celebrated today by Jews 2500 years later on the 14th and 15th

Puvim

5 things you might not know

days of Adar, the twelfth month of the Jewish Calendar which usually coincides with March. Many dress up as the characters of Esther, Mordecai or the King, Haman being a favourite!

- 1) It celebrates the bravery of Esther.
- 2) They gather at the synagogue and shout and hiss when Haman's name is mentioned.
- 3) The costumes worn are meant to symbolize how God is hidden in our lives.
- 4) The name Purim refers to the lottery system that Haman used to decide the massacre.
- 5) On the eve of Purim, Jews do not eat or drink from dawn until dusk to remember Esther's three-day fast in preparation to meet

# Ch 10 – Mordecai's recognition The nation is delivered once more

# Power & precept

His women, 1. 9; 2. 17

His writing,

Esther and the Chiastic structure

A. The King's glory and two banquets, 1. 1-8

**D.** Mordecai's plan to save the Jews, 8. 9-14

B. Esther is Queen and Mordecai saves Jews, 9. 1-19

A. Mordecai's glory and two feasts, 9. 20; 10. 1-3

C. Mordecai promoted, 8. 15-17

**B.** Esther is Queen and Mordecai saves the King, 1. 9 - 2. 20

E. Esther and Mordecai's plan to overrule the decree, 4. 1-17

F. Esther's banquet 1, Haman plans Mordecai's death, 5. 1-14

< Haman hangs >

< Mordecai exalted >

F. Esther's banquet 2, Haman is executed not Mordecai, 7. 1-10

**E.** Esther and Mordecai's plan to overrule the decree, 8, 1-8

Esther