

Insights From Esther

Other non-fiction books by the author:

Biblical Oddities

Even So, Come, Lord Jesus

The Kings of Israel and Judah

Collected Sunday School Lessons (2008 – 2009)

Collected Sunday School Lessons (2010 – 2011)

Collected Sunday School Lessons (2012 – 2013)

Collected Sunday School Lessons (2014 – 2018)

The Lost Doctrines

Dinosaurs in History

Summary of Old Testament Events

Chapter Summary of the Bible

Creation: A Study of Origins

Theology: An Assortment of Articles

Heresy: A Study of False Teachers

Eschatology: A Study of the Second Coming

C S Lewis

Bill Gothard

Translation Issues: The KJV Controversy

The Catholic Church: A Study of Heresy

Insights From Esther

by Jonathan Cooper

First Edition on 5/4/2024

Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
4/29/2024

Table of Contents

Introduction.....4
Esther.....7

Esther

- The wise men of Ahasuerus were seated first in the kingdom (Esther 1:14).
- When Vashti the queen refused to come to the king's party, Ahasuerus was very angry with her. He wanted to take action against her – but he wanted to do it according to the law. Although he was angry with her he wanted to respond in a way that was both wise and legal (Esther 1:15). He didn't act in haste but took time to consult other people.
- In the kingdom of the Medes and Persians, once a law was passed it couldn't be changed (Esther 1:19).
- In the palace of Ahasuerus, men and women were segregated. The men lived in one area and the women lived in a different area (Esther 2:3).
- Mordecai was a Benjamite, and a descendant of Kish (Esther 2:5). King Saul was also a Benjamite, and his father was also named Kish.
- The reason Mordecai was at the palace in Susa was because he had been carried away captive from Jerusalem (Esther 2:6). Mordecai was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar when he conquered Jerusalem.
- Mordecai was taken captive at the same time as Jeconiah, the former king of Judah (Esther 2:6).
- Esther's real name was Hadassah (Esther 2:7). She was the daughter of Mordecai's uncle, which means she and Mordecai were cousins.
- Esther was placed into the custody of Hegai, who gave Esther seven women from the king's house who served

her (Esther 2:8-9).

- Esther was taken into the royal house of Ahasuerus in the seventh year of his reign (Esther 2:16).
- Haman was a descendant of Agag (Esther 3:1), the ruler that God commanded King Saul to kill but who Saul chose to spare (1 Samuel 15:8). Saul was commanded to kill every last Amalekite but he didn't. That means this entire story happened because of Saul's disobedience. Sometimes a ruler's wickedness can have consequences which don't come to pass until hundreds of years later.
- The servants of the king asked Mordecai why he disobeyed the king's commandment by not showing respect to Haman (Esther 3:3-4). Mordecai never explained his reasons.
- Haman hadn't noticed that Mordecai wasn't showing him respect. He only found out when the king's servants told him (Esther 3:4).
- Although Mordecai had forbidden Esther from telling other people that she was a Jew, he had told others that he was a Jew (Esther 3:4).
- The king's servants believed that Mordecai's disobedience to the king's command was a reflection of the fact that he was a Jew, and therefore reflected on all Jews. They believed it was an act of defiance by all Jews against the king (Esther 4:4). The reason the king's servants told Haman that Mordecai wasn't showing him any respect was to see if the Jews were going to get away with breaking the king's commandment.
- The reason the events in this book took place was because day after day Mordecai sat at the king's gate and

refused to show respect to Haman, and because he had told everyone he was a Jew even though he forbade Esther from doing the same thing (Esther 3:4).

- Haman was willing to commit genocide against an entire people group just because a single person from that group hadn't shown him respect (Esther 3:6).
- The date which Haman picked to kill all of the Jews fell upon the twelfth year of the reign of Ahasuerus (Esther 3:7). That date was five years after Esther became queen.
- Haman told the king that he would fund the genocide of the Jews with 10,000 talents of silver, which he would pay to those who were in charge of killing them. The money would go straight into the king's treasury (Esther 3:9).
- Ahasuerus didn't ask Haman any questions about the genocide that he was planning on carrying out (Esther 3:11). The king didn't even ask what group of people Haman was planning on killing!
- Haman intended to kill all of the Jews on a single day (Esther 3:13).
- The commandment to kill all of the Jews perplexed the city of Shushan (Esther 3:15).
- Esther was isolated from the Jewish community. Jews all throughout the kingdom were greatly upset by the king's commandment to kill all of them, but Esther didn't know what was going on (Esther 4:4).
- All of the people in the kingdom knew that appearing before the king when he hadn't requested your presence was punishable by death (Esther 4:11). This means Mordecai must have known that as well when he told Esther to go see the king uninvited.

- Esther hadn't been called to see the king for 30 days (Esther 4:11).
- Mordecai displayed no concern about what would happen to Esther if she went before the king and he didn't want to see her. When Esther expressed her concerns to Mordecai that his plan might get her killed, he answered her very roughly (Esther 3:13-14).
- When Esther was worried that Mordecai's plan might get her killed, Mordecai didn't offer to help Esther. Instead he threatened her (Esther 3:13-14).
- Mordecai told Esther that if she did nothing then the Jews would surely be saved, but her father's house would be killed (Esther 3:14). However, Esther's parents were already dead and she was raised by Mordecai.
- Esther obeyed Mordecai even though what she was doing was illegal and might get her killed (Esther 3:16).
- Mordecai didn't look for an option which didn't put Esther's life at risk. There's no mention of praying, or talking to a prophet, or asking God to motivate the king to call Esther to the inner court. The only option Mordecai pursued was one that risked Esther's life (Esther 3:17).
- Neither Mordecai nor Esther made any mention of God at all (Esther 3:17).
- Although the date for the destruction of the Jews was an entire year away, Mordecai demanded that Esther *immediately* go into the inner court to see the king. He was unwilling to wait a few days to see if the king called for Esther, and instead demanded that she do something right away which might get her killed (Esther 3:17).

- Haman had glory, riches, many children, and great authority – and he was exceedingly proud (Esther 5:11).
- Haman specifically invited his friends over to his house so he could brag about how great he was (Esther 5:11).
- Zeresh, the wife of Haman, told him to make a gallows 50 cubits high in order to hang Mordecai (Esther 5:14). The plan to hang Mordecai came from Zeresh, not Haman.
- When the king couldn't sleep, he asked for the book of the chronicles of his kingdom to be brought to him (Esther 6:1). Apparently hearing someone read that book to him put him to sleep.
- Even Haman couldn't enter into the presence of the king without being invited (Esther 6:4).
- Haman was in such a hurry to kill Mordecai that he visited the king late at night while he was trying to sleep. Haman was unwilling to wait until the next day (Esther 6:4).
- The king thought that there might be people in the court wanting to see him, even late at night (Esther 6:4).
- Haman was convinced that the only person who the king might want to honor was him (Esther 6:6-7). That's how proud he was, and that's why he gave the king such a honest answer.
- Haman wanted to wear the king's royal apparel, ride on the king's horse, and wear the king's crown (Esther 6:8). In spite of everything that Haman had he wanted more.
- Haman desired the praise of men. He wanted people to publicly proclaim how great he was (Esther 6:9).
- The wise men of Haman told him that he wouldn't prevail

against Mordecai but would surely fall. They believed that the king's decision to honor Mordecai was a sign of certain doom, because Haman had lifted himself up against the Jews and yet he had begun to fall before them (Esther 6:13). Even Haman's wife agreed with this.

- The king's chamberlains were in a hurry to bring Haman to the banquet. The fact that Haman didn't go himself, but had to be fetched by the servants of the king, indicates that either he forgot about it or he was very late (Esther 6:14).
- The last banquet which Esther held was a banquet of wine (Esther 7:2).
- Esther told the king that if she and her people just were going to be sold into slavery then she wouldn't have said anything. She was only speaking up because they were all going to be killed (Esther 7:4).
- Esther told the king that selling her and her people into slavery would greatly damage the kingdom (Esther 7:4). She seems to be saying that the price Haman was paying to kill the Jews wasn't enough to repay the kingdom for the enormous loss that would be incurred when the Jews were killed. Esther was arguing that the Jews were an asset, not a liability that should be destroyed.
- On the day that the king executed Haman, he gave the house of Haman to Esther (Esther 8:1).
- The king took off his ring and gave it to Mordecai (Esther 8:2). This means Mordecai was given the place of authority that Haman once possessed.
- Esther and Mordecai couldn't repeal what Haman had written, but they could write a new proclamation of their

own (Esther 8:8-11). The new proclamation granted the Jews the right to gather together and defend themselves from those who would attack them.

- The city of Shushan rejoiced over this new proclamation (Esther 8:15). They were happy that the Jews would be allowed to defend themselves.
- The new proclamation caused many people to become Jews (Esther 8:17).
- The enemies of the Jews didn't gain power over the Jews. Instead things were turned around and the Jews ruled over those who hated them (Esther 9:1).
- All of the rulers of the provinces, along with other government leaders, helped the Jews (Esther 9:3). The reason they did this was because they were afraid of Mordecai.
- The Jews killed their enemies but they didn't take any spoil (Esther 9:10).
- Esther asked the king for permission to hang the 10 sons of Haman on the gallows, even though they were already dead (Esther 9:13-14). The king granted this request.
- The Jews killed 500 people in the palace itself, 300 people in Shushan, and 75,000 of their enemies throughout the kingdom (Esther 9:12, 16).
- Mordecai proclaimed that the Jews were to keep the 14th and 15th of the month Adar as a holiday each year because those were the days when the Jews rested after defeating their enemies (Esther 9:22). Those days were to be days of feasting, a time of joy, and an occasion to send gifts to one another.

- Those days were also to be a time of giving gifts to the poor (Esther 9:22).
- The feast was called Purim because Haman cast lots ("Pur") (Esther 9:26).
- Mordecai established this new holiday by proclamation. Esther then confirmed it with her own letter, and Mordecai then sent more letters which further established it (Esther 9:31).
- Mordecai was next to Ahasuerus (Esther 10:3). It seems that he was second in command under the king. He used his position to seek the well-being and wealth of the Jews.