



# PURIM

God Saves His People

# *Megillah Esther*

## **CHAPTER 1 -- KING ACHASHVEROSH THROWS A PARTY**

- A lavish six-month celebration marks the third year in the reign of Achashverosh, the king of Persia.
- The King requests that Queen Vashti parade before all his guests to show off her beauty. Queen Vashti refuses the king's request and the king's advisors counsel that Vashti be replaced with a new queen.

# *Megillah Esther*

## **CHAPTER 2 -- ESTHER BECOMES THE QUEEN**

- Across the Persian Empire, officials are appointed to identify beautiful candidates to succeed Vashti as queen.
- A Jewish girl, Esther, the niece of Mordechai, is brought to the capital of Persia as one of the candidates.
- Mordechai tells Esther to conceal her Jewish identity.
- Esther is chosen as the most beautiful woman in the land and selected to be the new queen.
- Mordechai learns of a plot to overthrow the king. Mordechai informs Esther, Esther tells the king, and the plotters are hanged.

# *Megillah Esther*

## **CHAPTER 3 -- THE RISE OF HAMAN**

- Achashverosh appoints Haman to be his prime minister. Haman demands that all bow in homage to him.
- Mordechai consistently refuses to bow to Haman.
- An enraged Haman vows to kill all the Jews of Persia.
- Haman devises a plot and persuades King Achashverosh to pass a law to kill all the Jews at a certain time. The date was chosen by casting the “pur.”
- A royal edict is disseminated throughout Persia. The 13th of Adar is designated as the date to exterminate all the Jews and plunder their possessions.

# *Megillah Esther*

## **CHAPTER 4 -- ESTHER'S MISSION BECOMES CLEAR**

- Mordechai tears his clothes and puts on sackcloth and ashes as a sign of public mourning.
- Mordechai sends a copy of the decree to Esther and asks her to intercede with the king.
- Esther replies that to approach the king without being summoned is to risk death.
- Mordechai tells her that she has no choice.
- Esther tells Mordechai to ask the Jews to fast and pray for three days before she will approach the king.

# *Megillah Esther*

## **CHAPTER 5 -- ESTHER'S STRATEGY, HAMAN'S FURY**

- King Achashverosh receives Esther and grants her virtually any request.
- Esther's request: that the king and Haman join her at a banquet.
- After the banquet, Haman sees Mordechai who once again refuses to bow.
- When Zeresh, Haman's wife, suggests that Mordechai be hung, the gallows are prepared.

# *Megillah Esther*

## **CHAPTER 6 -- THE REVERSAL BEGINS**

- The king can't sleep and asks to hear the royal chronicles.
- For the first time, the king learns of the assassination plot that Mordechai had revealed.
- That same night, Haman comes to see the king about hanging Mordechai.
- Before Haman can speak, the king tells Haman to honor Mordechai by dressing him in royal garments, to place him on a royal stallion and to personally lead him through the streets of Shushan, capital of Persia.

# *Megillah Esther*

## **CHAPTER 7 -- REVERSAL OF FORTUNE**

- At the second banquet, Esther reveals her identity and announces that she and her people are about to be murdered.
- Esther identifies Haman as her arch enemy.
- The king has Haman hung on the gallows that had been prepared for Mordechai.

# *Megillah Esther*

## **CHAPTER 8 -- THE REVERSAL IS COMPLETE**

- Mordechai is named prime minister to replace Haman.
- A second royal edict is promulgated empowering the Jews to fight and kill anyone who would try to harm them.

# *Megillah Esther*

## **CHAPTER 9 -- THE HOLIDAY OF PURIM**

- On the 13th of Adar, a day that had been designated for Jewish destruction, the Jews are victorious over their enemies.
- The 10 sons of Haman are hung.
- The 14th and 15th of Adar are designated to celebrate the salvation. These are the days of Purim.
- Mordechai initiates the Purim practices -- consisting of a festive meal, the exchange of gifts of food, and the giving of monetary gifts to the poor.

# *Megillah Esther*

## **CHAPTER 10 -- MORDECHAI AND PERSIA**

- Persia, with Mordechai as prime minister, flourishes.
- The role of Mordechai in the history of the Persian empire is recorded in the king's chronicles.

# *Purim teaches us about...*

- **God's Providence**
- **God's Sovereignty**
- **God keeps his promises.**

# God's Providence

- **Providence** is the belief that there is a benevolent and purposeful ordering of all events of history.
- Nothing happens by chance; though not always perceptible to human understanding, there is a divine or cosmic plan to the universe, a reason for everything.
- *"You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit."* (Job 10:12)



# Jerusalem

Prayer Breakfast















# *God's Sovereignty*

- The book of Esther also shows us that God places us here on earth at the right time and at the right place to fulfil his **sovereign** purposes...

## *Esther 4:13–14 (ESV)*

- <sup>13</sup> Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. <sup>14</sup> 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 3:6–7 (ESV)*

- <sup>6</sup> But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.  
<sup>7</sup> In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, they cast lots) before Haman day after day; and they cast it month after month till the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

## *Esther 9:22 (ESV)*

- <sup>22</sup> as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

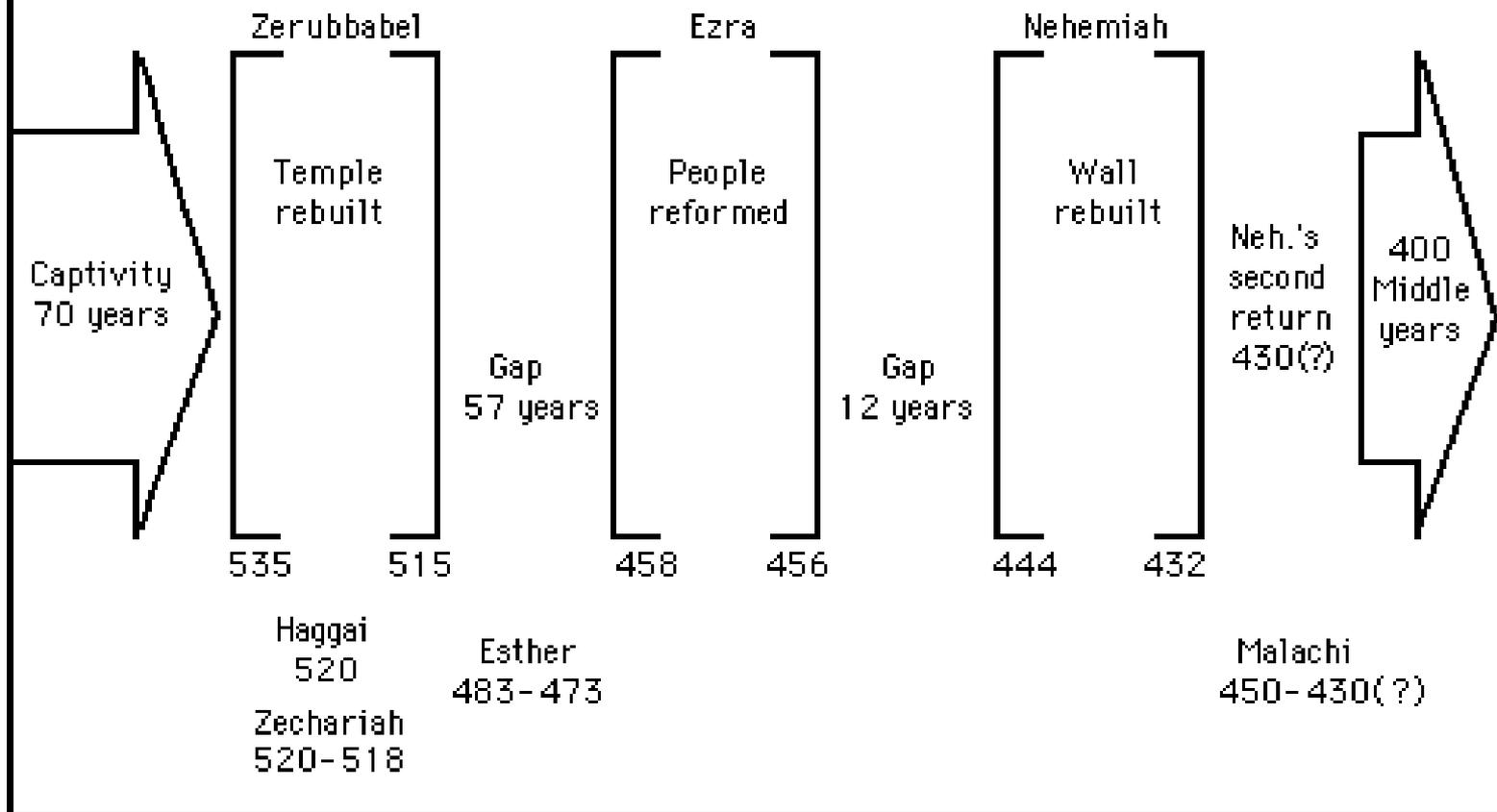
## *4 mitzvot (good deeds)*

1. The public reading of the Book of Esther (keriat ha-megilla),
2. giving mutual gifts of food and drink ([mishloach manot](#)),
3. giving charity to the poor (mattanot la-eyyonim),
4. and a celebratory meal (se'udat Purim);

# Jews in Exile

(BKC [OT] p. 652)

## The Three Returns from Exile



# *Antisemitism on the Rise*

- “Antisemitism is now a Pandemic, but it must not become the New Normal!...”
- ...we have to stand “strong against this new tidal wave of antisemitism in America and most of the world. This renewed and re-invented brand of antisemitism is indeed a fast-spreading disease...”
- “If all the acts of antisemitism that have occurred globally in the last few months were to be reported properly, it is almost certain that we could document [the hatred of the Jews as a daily occurrence](#)....”
- Olivier Melnick, author of the book End Times Antisemitism

## *Esther 3:8 (ESV)*

- <sup>8</sup> Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king’s laws, so that it is not to the king’s profit to tolerate them.

# *God Keeps His Promises*

- Numbers 23:19 (TLV)
- <sup>19</sup> God is not a man who lies, or a son of man who changes his mind! Does He speak and then not do it, or promise and not fulfill it?

- Genesis 12:3 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

- Matthew 7:1–2 (TLV)
- <sup>1</sup> “Stop judging, so that you may not be judged. <sup>2</sup> For with the judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

# *God Saves His People*

- Romans 10:9–13 (TLV)
- <sup>9</sup> For if you confess with your mouth that *Yeshua* is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart it is believed for righteousness, and with the mouth it is confessed for salvation. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, “Whoever trusts in Him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all—richly generous to all who call on Him. <sup>13</sup> For “Everyone who calls upon the name of *ADONAI* shall be saved.”