

# For Such a Time as This

A Study of The Book of Esther

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# Chapter One

And he displayed the riches of  
his royal glory and the  
splendor of his great  
majesty for many days...



# Chapter One

1. Let us lay the groundwork for the events of chapter one by recording what we learn in the opening four verses concerning:

- The man:

- The land:

- The city (cf. Dan. 8:1-8):

- The event (cf. Dan. 11:2):

2. Read the description of the follow-up banquet (vv.5-9).

3. Why were such details given in its description (cf. Dan. 11:2)?

4. What appears to be the focus of the banquet (vv.7-8)?

5. What do you think its purpose was?

6. In what condition do we find the king (v.10)?

7. What order did Ahasuerus give (v.11)?

8. What was the purpose of his request (v.11)?

9. How did Queen Vashti respond (v.12)?

10. In what ways would her refusal have threatened or frustrated the king?

11. Why do you think the author included multiple references to the alcohol that had been consumed (cf. Judg. 16:25-30; 2 Sam. 13:28)?

12. With whom does King Ahasuerus consult concerning Vashti's refusal (v.13; cf. Ezra 7:14)?

13. What dilemma is described (vv.15, 17-18)?

14. What is the significance of deriving a *legal* solution (vv. 15, 19; cf. 2:1; 8:8; Dan. 6:8)?

15. How does King Ahasuerus respond to his advisors (v.21-22; cf. I Kings 12:8-14)?

## *Lecture Notes*





# Chapter Two

And Esther  
found favor in  
the eyes of  
all who saw her.



## Chapter Two

1. After reading verse one, describe the mood of the King, and its cause.
2. What solution was suggested to please the King (vv. 2-4)?
3. Consider and record the life-long implications of Ahasuerus' directive for the young women involved (vv.2-4, 12-14; cf. 2 Sam. 20:3).

4. Document the history, lineage, and relationship of the two new characters introduced in the next few verses (vv.5-7; cf. Jer. 24:5; 2 Sam. 16:5; I Chron. 8:33 I Sam. 9:1).
5. Compare the commentary of verses 8-9 with Joseph (Gen. 39:4; 40:4; 41:38-41) and Daniel (1:9; 2:46-48; 6:3) and offer any insight (and parallels) you may have regarding why these two men and Esther found favor with their foreign captors.
6. What instructions did Mordecai give to Esther and why might this be (vv.10-11, 20; cf. 3:10-11)?

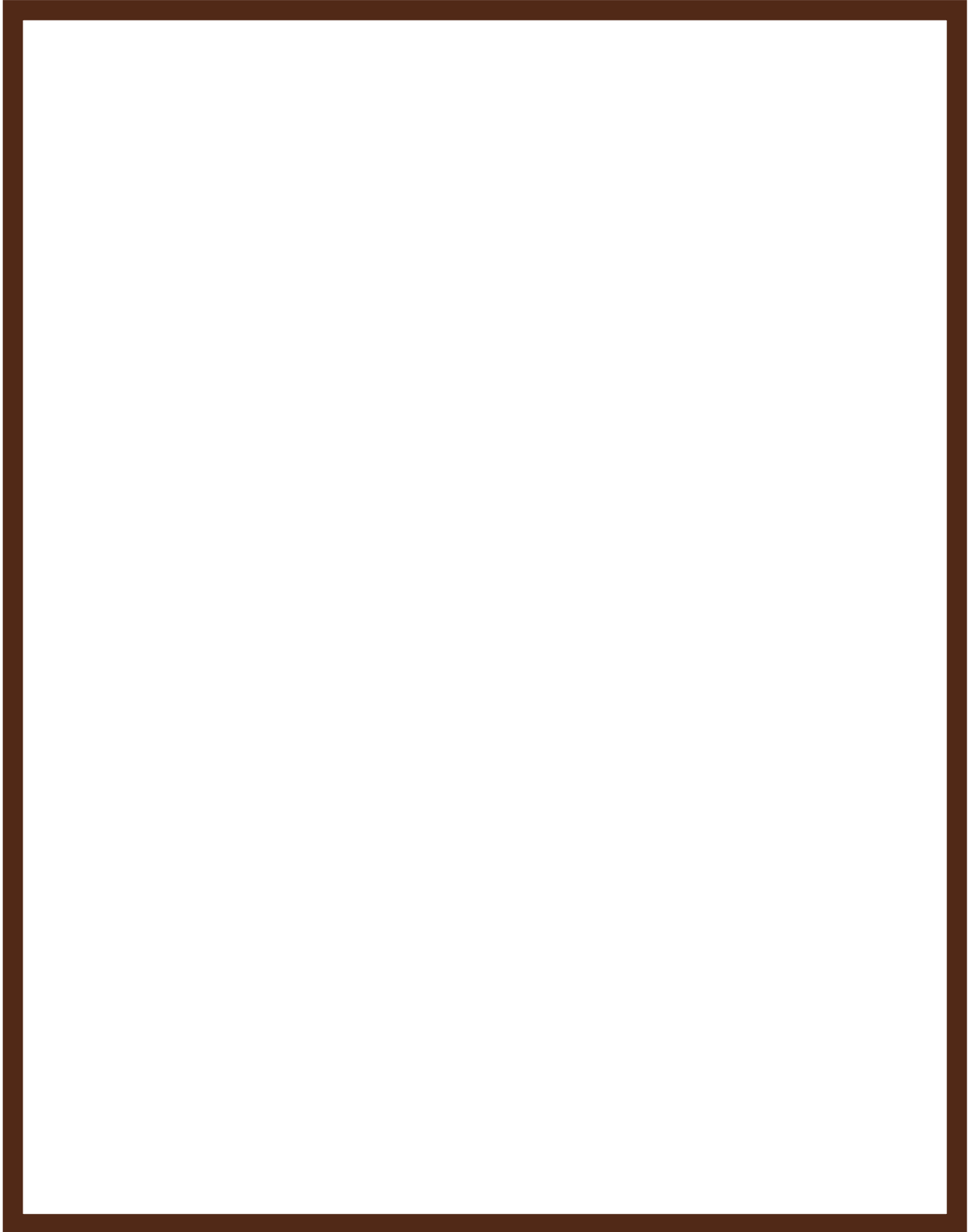
7. Contemplating the political/geopolitical landscape around the world today, do you think there would still be good reason for Jewish people to hide their ethnicity (give an example/s)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Summarize the events of verses 15-18, with any points of interest.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What seems to be the main point of verse 19?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Why would Mordecai have ascended to this position (v.19; cf. Ruth 4:1; Prov. 31:23)?

11. What key point does the author repeat (v.20)?

12. Summarize the events found in verses 21-23.

13. Reflect upon chapter two and record what you believe are the two main points, which lay the groundwork for the remainder of the book.

# Lecture Notes





# Chapter Three

...and while the king  
and Haman sat down  
to drink, the city of  
Susa was in confusion.



## Chapter Three

1. Briefly review *the events* referenced in verse 1 (cf. 2:16; 3:7).
2. Record all the information given about Haman (v.1)?
3. Explain the conflict that begins to develop (vv.2-3).
4. How do Mordecai's peers attempt to solve the problem (v.4)?



9. Describe the evil plan of Haman (v.6-10).

10. Although Agag is a territory within the Persian empire, the name also bears historical significance for the Jewish people. Let us explore the Biblical history of the Agagites by reading and summarizing the following passages:

- Genesis 36:1-4, 10-12

- Exodus 17:8-16:

- Deuteronomy 25:17-19:

- 1 Samuel 15:1-9, 33:

- I Samuel 30:1-2:

- 2 Samuel 1:5-10:

- I Chronicles 4:43:

11. What is the King's response to Haman's plan (v.11)?

12. Describe the elements of the edict and how it was enacted (vv. 12-14).

13. Considering the edict's requirements, contrast the disposition of Haman and the King with the city of Susa.

14. Why would Susa be in such confusion?

## *Lecture Notes*





# Chapter Four

*...if you remain silent*

*at this time,*

*relief and deliverance*

*will arise for the*

*Jews from another place...*



## Chapter Four

1. Summarize the two possible explanations of Haman being an Agagite (3:1) discussed in chapter three.
2. What has caused the mourning and sadness of Mordecai, we witness in the opening verses of chapter four.
3. Do you think Mordecai may have felt personal responsibility for the predicament the Jews were now in, why or why not?





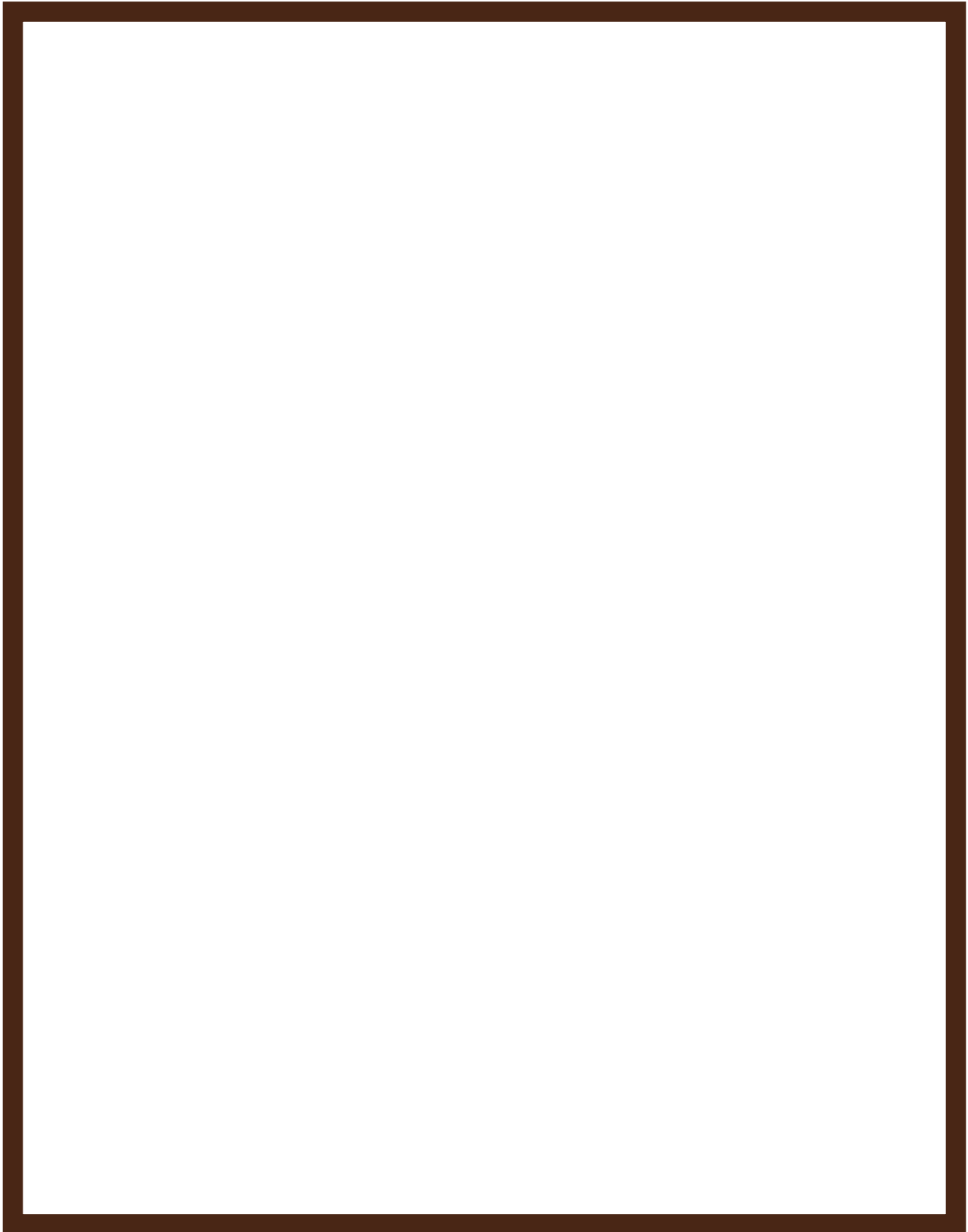
12. After considering Mordecai's exhortation, what does Esther tell him (v.16; cf. Ezr. 8:21-23)?

13. Carefully consider the ways in which Esther's focus changed from her first statement (v.11) to her last (v.16; cf. Mk. 13:11-12).

14. Why was Mordecai so confident that help would arise from one source or another (v.14; Gen. 12:1-3)?

15. Who would be fasting on Esther's behalf (v.16)?

# Lecture Notes





# Chapter Five

Esther put on her  
royal robes and stood in the  
inner court  
of the king's palace  
in front of the king's rooms...



## Chapter Five

1. Review the main events of chapter four that lay the groundwork for chapter five.
2. Why do you think Esther wore her formal royal garments to approach the king (v.1; cf. Eph. 5:25-27)?
3. How does Scripture exhort a believer to approach Jesus Christ?
  - Philippians 4:6:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Hebrews 1:8:

- Hebrews 4:14-16:

- James 4:6:

4. How does Ahasuerus respond, once he sees her (v.2)?

5. What offer does Ahasuerus extend to Esther (v.3)?

6. What blessings (gifts) are offered to a person who trusts in Jesus Christ?

- John 1:12:

- John 3:16:

- Romans 8:26-39:

- Ephesians 1:3-14:

7. How does Scripture describe a non-believer coming before the throne of God (Revelation 20:11-15)?

8. What is the first request of Esther (v.4)?

9. How does the dinner seem to proceed (vv. 5-6, 9a)?

10. Why do you think Esther requests a second banquet, and what risk is involved (vv.7-8)?

11. Describe the cause of Haman's turn from merriment to anger (v.9, 13; 3:1-2).

12. What are the accomplishments that Haman enumerates in the following monologue (vv.10-12; Ps. 75:4; Prov. 18:10-12; Jer. 9:23-24)?

13. How do Haman's councilors help soothe his anger (v.14; Prov. 13:20; cf. Prov. 26:4-5)?

## *Lecture Notes*





# Chapter Six

"Take quickly the robes and  
the horse as you have said, and  
do so for Mordecai the Jew,  
who is sitting at the king's  
gate...."



## Chapter Six

1. Summarize the developments in chapter five.
2. What specific pieces of information help mold your view of Haman's character?
3. At the conclusion of chapter five, how would you describe Haman's influence over the king and empire?
4. What incident begins the inevitable doom of Haman? (v.1)?

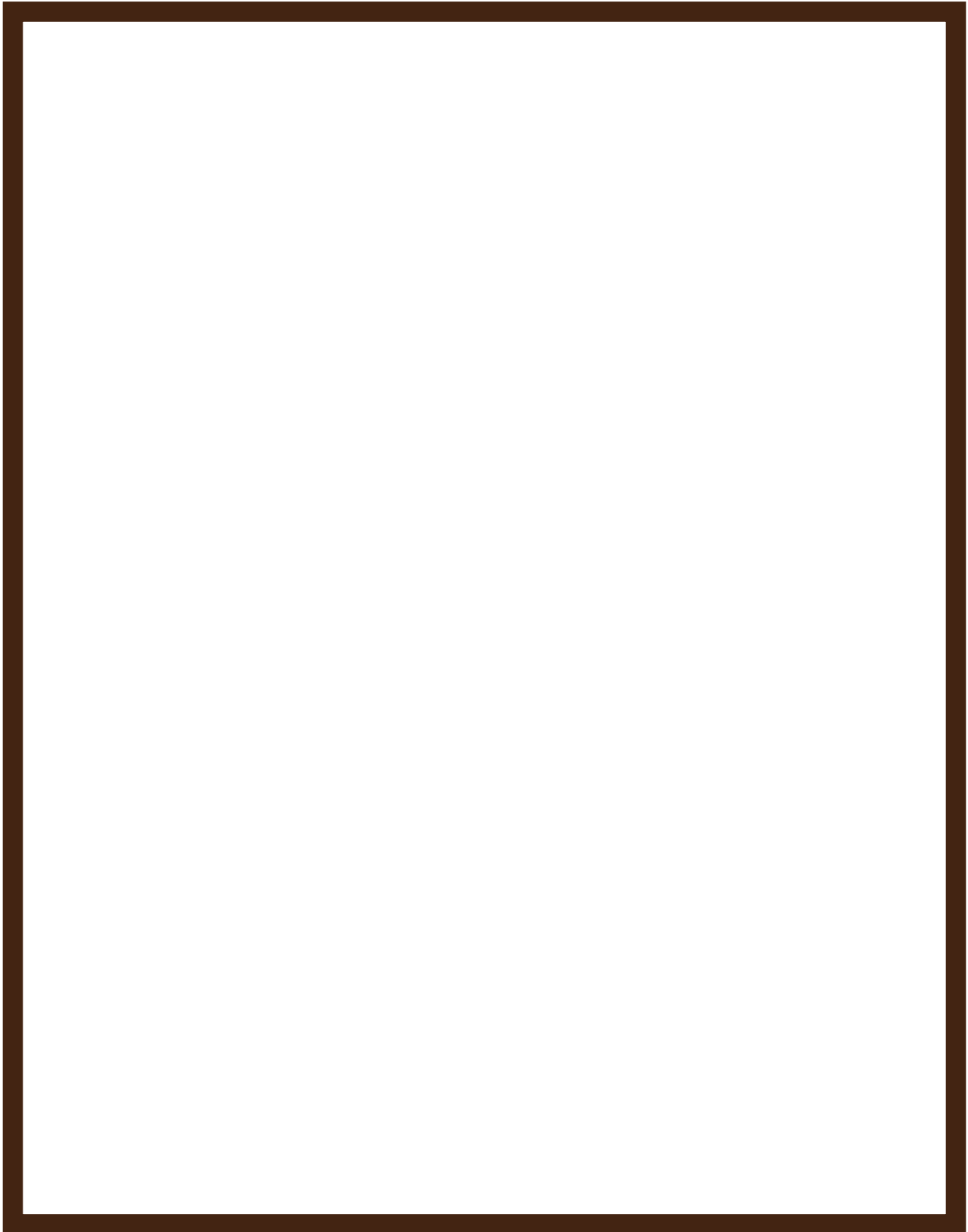




13. Contrast the reactions of Haman and Mordecai after the parade (vv. 10-12; cf. Ps. 10:2-4).

14. What important observation does Zeresh make (v.13; cf. Gen. 12:3).

# Lecture Notes





# Chapter Seven

*"A foe and an*

*enemy is*

*this wicked*

*Haman!"*



## Chapter Seven

1. How does the chapter begin (vv.1-2)?
2. What is Esther's request and why does she make her appeal with such deference (vv.3-4)?
3. What observations can be made from the king's response (v.5; cf. 3:11)?
4. After reading verse six, what would you say the purpose of the duplicate banquets and delayed request of Esther was (v.6; 5:3,6)?

5. What is Xerxes reaction to the news about Haman (v.7)?

6. How does Haman's fear cause him to respond (v.8a)?

7. What incorrect assumption does Xerxes make (v.8b)?

8. Who is Harbonah and what practical suggestion does he make (v.9)?

9. What information does Harbonah bring to the king's attention (v.9; 6:2-3)?

10. Note the ironic elements you have observed concerning Haman in the narrative (e.g., 3:1; 3:2, 5; 3:6; 3:8-9; 6:9; 6:12; 6:14).

## *Lecture Notes*





# Chapter Eight

The king took off  
his signet ring which  
he had taken away from  
Haman, and gave it to  
Mordecai.

## Chapter Eight

1. Review the events of chapter seven paying special attention to Esther's request.
2. What does the author mean when he says Ahasuerus "gave the house of Haman... to Queen Esther" (v.1)?
3. How does Esther handle this newly acquired estate (v.2)?
4. Explain the ironic element recorded in the opening verses of chapter eight (vv. 1-2; 3:1-2).





9. Scrutinize the orders of Haman and Mordecai and contrast the content and motives of each (vv.11-13; 3:8-11).

10. What do you think is the purpose of describing the clothing of Mordecai (v.15)?

11. How did the people of Susa react (vv.15-17; cf. 3:15)?

12. For what reason does the text indicate that many people *became Jews* (v.17; cf. Gen 12:3; Josh 2:1-16)?



# Chapter Nine

...it was turned

to the contrary

so that the Jews themselves

gained the mastery

over those who hated them.

## Chapter Nine

1. How much time has passed since Haman's decree (v.1; 3:7, 13)?
2. How much time has passed since Mordecai's decree (8:12)?
3. Explain how such a perilous threat to the Jews reversed itself (vv.1-4).
4. How did the Jews conduct themselves toward their enemies (vv.5-10)?



9. Were the actions of the Jews justifiable or vindictive (vv. 10, 15, 16; cf. Gen. 14; Josh. 7:11-12; I Sam. 15:18-19)?

10. Explain how multiple days of celebration originated (vv.17-19).

11. How did Mordecai codify the celebration (vv.20-23)?

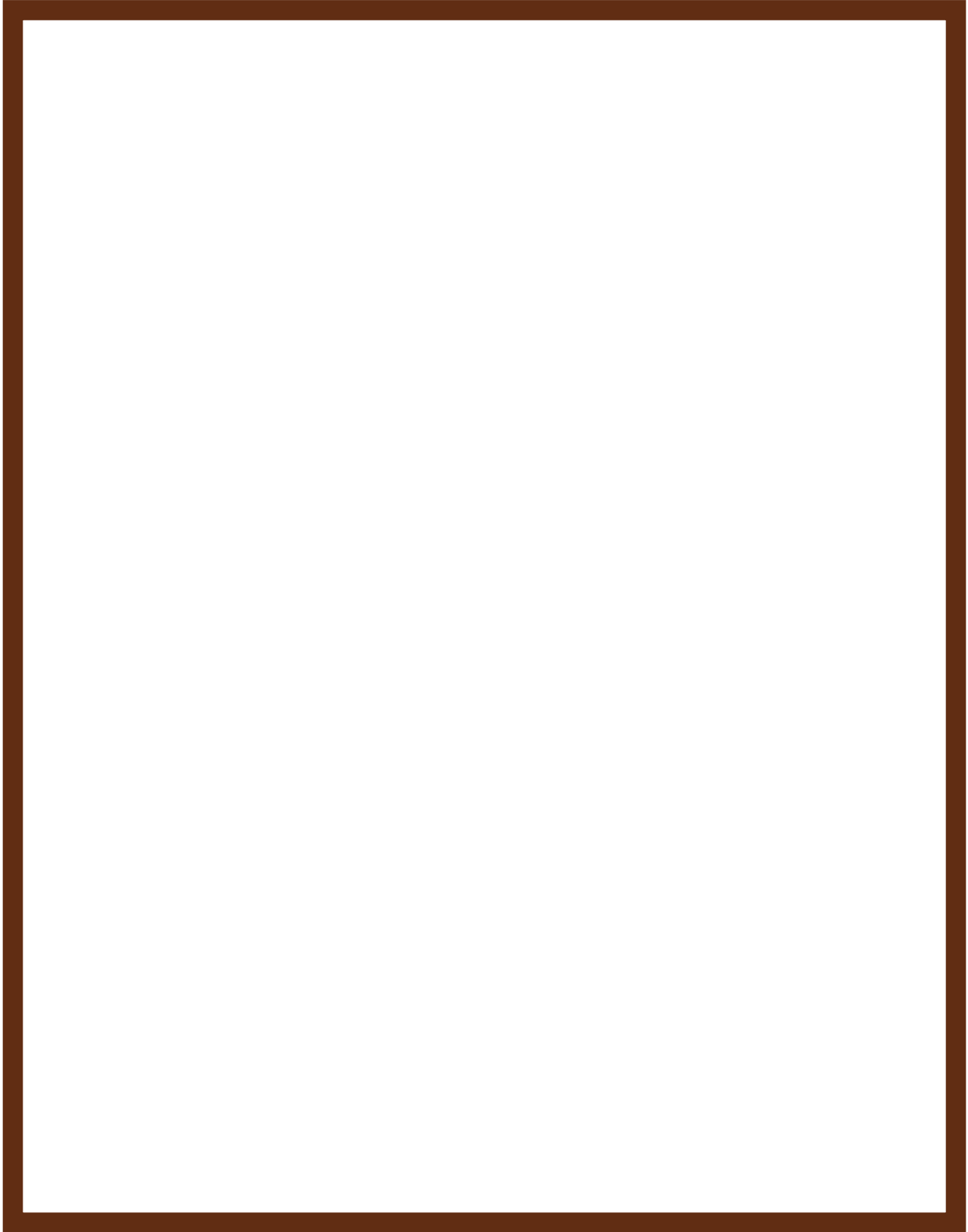
12. How does the author describe the celebration(vv.24-28)?

13. What is the name *Purim* based upon (v.26; 3:7)?

14. What effect would Queen Esther sending out a second letter have (vv.29-32).



# Lecture Notes





# Chapter Ten

For Mordecai

the Jew was

second only to

King Ahasuerus...

## Chapter Ten

1. What purpose would the author have to record a tax (v.1)?
2. What is the focus of the last two verses of the book of Esther?
3. What are we to understand about the character of Mordecai (v.3)?
4. Summarize what you believe to be the theme of the Book of Esther.

