

**Esther** (Persian) meaning 'star'

## SEEING GOD IN A SECULAR SOCIETY

**Hadassah** (Hebrew) meaning 'Myrtle'



**Esther**

A Jewish woman God used to preserve the nation

**Ruth**

A Gentile woman who God used to preserve the seed.



**Ahaseurus**

There are two views on the identity of Ahaseurus

- 1) Xerxes 1
- 2) Astyages the father of Cyrus so that would make Esther the mother of Cyrus, influential in his decree for the return of the Jews from captivity

*The commitment of one woman to save the nation*

# 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**

- Ch 1 – Ahasuerus' reign
- The Queen dismissed
- Ch 2 – Esther's royal crown
- King's deliverance

**The second decree 3-7**

- Ch 3 – Mordecai's refusal
- Haman despises him
- Ch 4 – Mordecai's recommendation
- Esther decides to trust God
- Ch 5 – Esther's request
- Haman's deceit
- Ch 6 – Mordecai's reward
- Haman's disappointment
- Ch 7 – Esther reveals the truth
- Haman reaps what he sows

**The third decree 8-10**

- Ch 8 – Ahasuerus reverses the law
- Mordecai's dedication to the people
- Ch 9 – The feast of Purim remembered
- The enemy must be destroyed
- Ch 10 – Mordecai's recognition
- The nation is delivered once more

### KING AHASUERUS

*Power & precept*  
 His wealth, 1. 4  
 His women, 1. 9; 2. 17  
 His wrath, 1. 12; 7. 7  
 His worry, 6. 1  
 His writing, 1. 19; 2. 23; 3. 9; 10. 2

### QUEEN ESTHER

*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

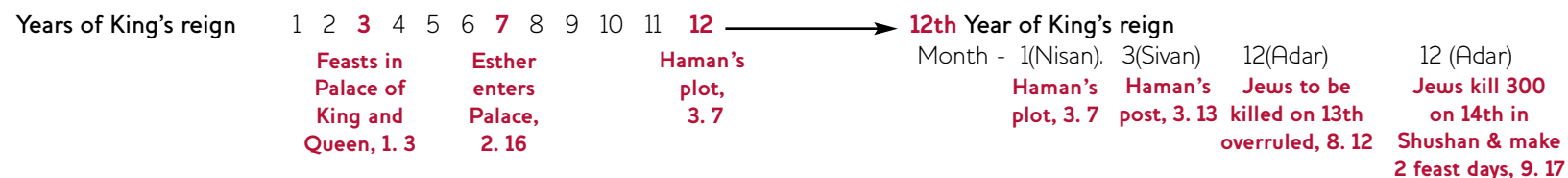
### HAMAN

*Proud & Presumptuous*  
 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*



**Esther and the Chiastic structure**

- A. The King's glory and two banquets, 1. 1-8
- B. Esther is Queen and Mordecai saves the King, 1. 9 - 2. 20
- C. Haman is promoted, 3. 1-6
- D. Haman's plot to kill Jews, 3. 7-15
- 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
- D. Mordecai's plan to save the Jews, 8. 9-14
- C. Mordecai promoted, 8. 15-17
- B. Esther is Queen and Mordecai saves Jews, 9. 1-19
- A. Mordecai's glory and two feasts, 9. 20; 10. 1-3

**The Persian Empire (559-530 BC)**



# Purim

*5 things you might not know*



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