

# Esther God Working in the Shadows



**DANGER for ISRAEL**

**DELIVERANCE for ISRAEL**

Banquets/Splendor	Danger	Decree	Banquet	REVERSAL	Banquet	Decree	Salvation	Banquets/Splendor
<p><b>Persian Festival and Ascension of Esther (1:1-2:23)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The greatness (גִּדְלוֹ) of Ahasuerus; Vashti is deposed (1:1-22).</li> <li>• Esther chosen, banquet in her honor; her Jewishness is hidden (2:1-18).</li> <li>• Mordecai foils the plot to assassinate Ahasuerus (2:19-23).</li> </ul> <p>483 BC 479 BC</p> <p>1:1 2:23</p>	<p><b>The Jews Endangered by Their Archenemy (3:1-15)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haman, archenemy of the Jews, plots to destroy Jews on Adar 13 (3:1-7).</li> <li>• Haman persuades Ahasuerus to issue an edict to annihilate Jews (3:8-15).</li> </ul> <p>473 BC</p> <p>3:1 3:15</p>	<p><b>Mordecai's Strategic Appeal (4:1-17)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Jews in Susa lament over the first royal edict (4:1-3).</li> <li>• Mordecai persuades Esther to appeal to Ahasuerus (4:4-17)</li> </ul> <p>4:1 4:17</p>	<p><b>Esther's First Banquet (5:1-8)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Esther averts death and invites Ahasuerus to attend her banquet (5:1-5a).</li> <li>• Esther's first banquet; she defers her request (5:5b-8).</li> </ul> <p>5:1 5:8</p>	<p><b>The Fall of Haman and Rise of Mordecai (5:9-6:14)</b></p> <p>A: Haman boasts; his wife/friends encourage him to hang Mordecai (5:9-14).</p> <p>* <b>Turning Point:</b> "That night the king could not sleep..." (6:1-11).</p> <p>A': Haman laments; wife/advisers predict downfall before Mordecai (6:12-14).</p> <p>5:9 6:14</p>	<p><b>Esther's Second Banquet (7:1-10)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Esther's second banquet; she makes her request (7:1-8).</li> <li>• Haman invites his own death when he pleads to save his life (7:9-10).</li> </ul> <p>7:1 7:10</p>	<p><b>Mordecai's Strategic Appeal (8:1-17)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mordecai persuades Ahasuerus to issue a second edict (8:1-14).</li> <li>• The Jews in Susa rejoice over the second royal edict (8:15-17).</li> </ul> <p>8:1 8:17</p>	<p><b>The Jews Victorious over Their Enemies (9:1-19)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Jews are victorious and destroy their enemies on Adar 13 (9:1-5).</li> <li>• Esther persuades Ahasuerus to allow Jews to kill Haman's sons (9:6-19).</li> </ul> <p>473 BC</p> <p>9:1 9:19</p>	<p><b>Jewish Festival and Ascension of Mordecai (9:20-10:13)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mordecai institutes Purim to celebrate foiling of Haman's plot (9:20-28).</li> <li>• Esther authorizes Purim festival; her Jewishness is displayed (9:29-32).</li> <li>• The greatness (גִּדְלוֹ) of Mordecai; Mordecai is empowered (10:1-13).</li> </ul> <p>9:20 10:3</p>
Prologue	Complication	Response	Development	Centerpiece	Consequence	Resolution	Climax	Epilogue

The Feast of Ahasuerus



## The Feasts of Esther



The Feast of Purim



The author recorded God's preservation of His unbelieving people and the celebration of that event in the Feast of Purim in order to show the post-exilic Covenant Community that God is loyal to His people (even those outside the land), not because of their character but because of His Covenant faithfulness (even when He is working behind the scenes), which would encourage them to finish the projects that God had given them to do, in spite of opposition.

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