

Esther

以斯帖记

Aihua Yin 12/3/2023

旧约中女人名字命名的书

- 以斯帖记: the story of a Jewess who married a Gentile
- 路得记: the story of a Gentile who married a Jew

作者：？

- The most popular traditions are Mordecai (末底改) 9: 29
- Ezra (以斯拉) wrote other history books after 回归
- Nehemiah (尼希米) familiar with Persian customs

写作时间

- 470BC? (483-470BC)
- 亚哈随鲁做王 (1:1), 在位第三年(1:3)... Hebrew Ahasuerus “high father”, a title)
- Xerxes I (NIV) or Artaxerxes “亚达薛西年间 以斯拉记 4:7, 486BC And in the days of Artaxerxes king of Persia (Ezra 4:7)
- Xerxes? : time frame, his temper, was assassinated



沉默的四百年

統一王國

巴比倫

波斯

亞蘭

北

分裂王國

僅存王國

被擄及歸回

Ancient Near East
empires from 700-300 BCE



Assyrian Empire (746 - 609 BCE)

Ancient Near East
empires from 700-300 BCE



Babylonian Empire (609 - 539 BCE)

Ancient Near East
empires from 700-300 BCE



Persian Empire (550 - 330 BCE)
(Achaemenid)

Ancient Near East
empires from 700-300 BCE



Macedonian Empire
(During the reign of
Alexander the Great (III) 336 - 323 BCE)

Key Verses:

“for such a time as this”

- 4:14 “此时你若闭口不言，犹大人必从别处得解脱蒙拯救，你和你父家必致灭亡。焉知你得了王后的位分，不是为现今的机会吗？” (For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to the royal position for such a time as this.)

Subject: 神的供应

- The purpose of the Book of Esther is to display the providence of God, especially in regard to His chosen people, Israel. The Book of Esther records the institution of **the Feast of Purim** and the obligation of its perpetual observation. The Book of Esther was read at the Feast of Purim to commemorate the great deliverance of the Jewish nation brought about by God through Esther. Jews today still read Esther during Purim.
- 犹太节：普珥日：joy and celebration

没有提到“神”

- 反而 地上的王的名字提了192次
- Esther is the record of Israel in a self-chosen pathway
 - Under Cyrus, Ezra and Nehemiah did return, very small remnants
 - Majority didn't return, chose the prosperity and luxury of Persia
 - Out of will of God, but not beyond His care
- 以斯帖记 也没提到祷告求神（有禁食）； 新约里没引用过； 但重要的节日“普珥”

分三段

1. Chapters 1:1-2:18 – 废瓦实提后位 Esther replaces Vashti;
2. Chapters 2:19-7:10 – 哈曼败给末底改 Mordecai overcomes Haman;
3. Chapters 8:1-10:3 – Israel survives Haman's attempt to destroy them.

角色：波斯王， 以斯帖， 末底改， 哈曼

The foolish king, the lovely Esther, the wise Mordecai, all have made their appearance. Since there is no story without conflict-enter the villain Haman

outlines (一共十章)

C1. 妻子不服从丈夫

(亚哈随鲁第三年)

C2. 选美 挑皇后

(亚哈随鲁第七年)



Galle, Philips & Heemskerck, Maerten van, 16th / 17th century

Mordechai listen to the betrayal of Bigthan and Teresh

Engraving

192 mm x 240 mm; hwx 2 (CA): 205 mm x 242 mm

Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherlands

C3. 哈曼 anti-Semitism

(亚哈随鲁第十二年正月)

- Mordecai:
 - v2:5 offspring of King Saul, from tribe of Benjamin
- Haman:
 - v3:1 the Agagite 二号人物
 - 1 Samuel 15:8 Saul spared Agag
 - decree: annihilate all the Jews on (12/13)



Paul Alexandre Alfred Leroy (1860 in Paris – 1942)

Haman and Mordecai, 1884

Odessa Museum of Western and Eastern Art

The Jewish Months (And When They Usually Fall)

Shevat (January-February)

Adar (#12) (February-March)

Nisan (#1) (March-April)

Iyyar (April-May)

Sivan (#3) (May-June)

Tammuz (June-July)

Av (July-August)

Elul (August-September)

Tishrei (September-October)

Heshvan (October-November)

Kislev (November-December)

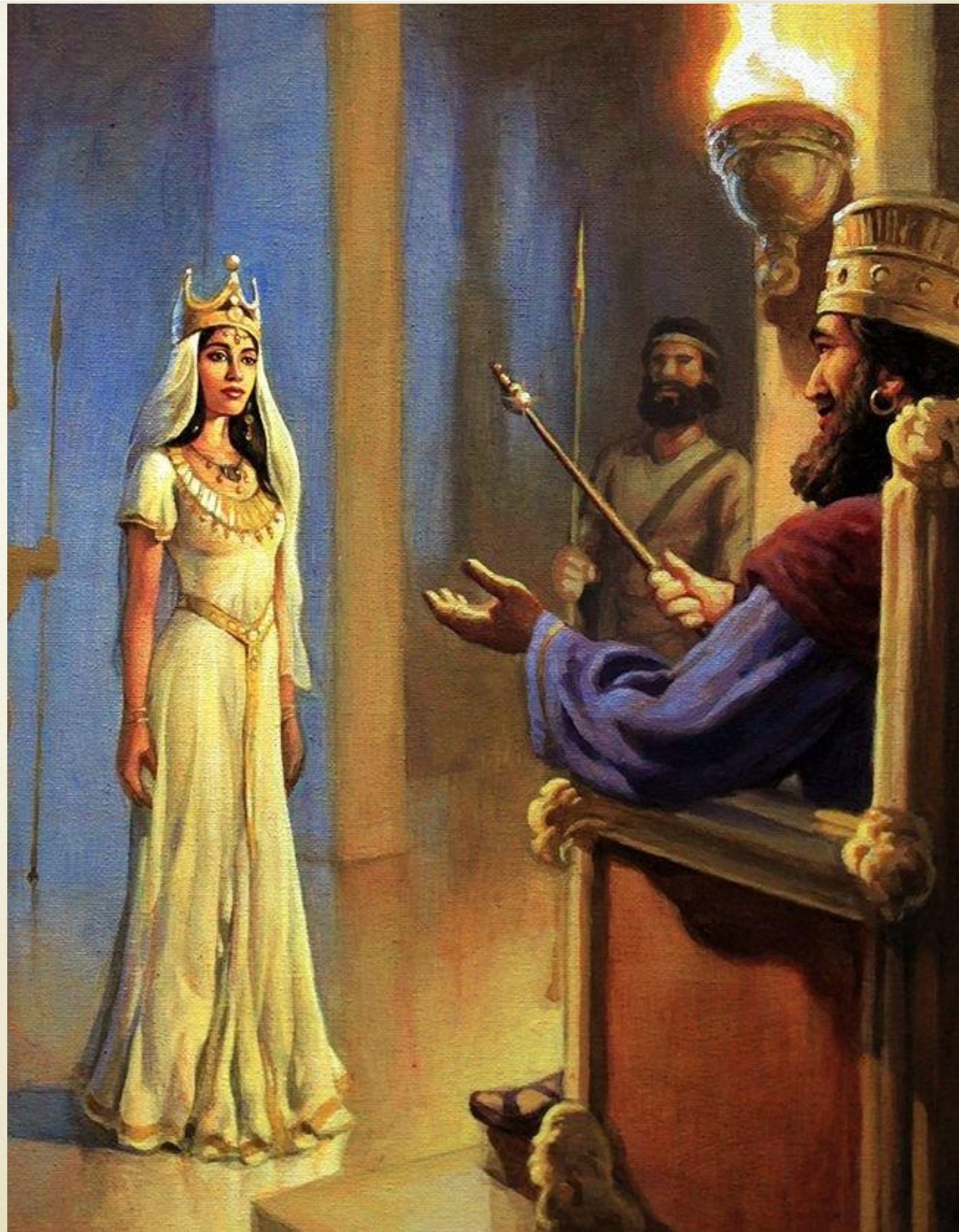
Tevet (December-January)

C4. “For such a time as this”

- mourn, fast,
- no prayer mentioned

C5. the scepter of grace and the nobility of Esther

- up to half the kingdom



C6. 王晚上睡不着



C7. 来吃筵席的上了断头台



C8. the Message of HOPE (亚哈随鲁第十二年三月)

- 凡为攻击你造成的器械，必不利用；凡在审判时兴起用舌攻击你的，你必定他为有罪。这是耶和华仆人的产业，是他们从我所得的义。”这是耶和华说的。Isaiah 54:17
- 我见过恶人大有势力，好像一根青翠树在本土生发。有人从那里经过，不料，他没有了；我也寻找他，却寻不着... 耶和华帮助他们，解救他们... 诗篇 37:35,36,40
- A decree has gone out from God to mankind: “神爱世人，甚至将他的独生子赐给他们，叫一切信他的不致灭亡，反得永生。

C8. the message of HOPE (亚哈随鲁第十二年三月)

C9 & C10. the institution of the Feast of Purim (犹太人的普珥节) (亚哈随鲁第十二年十二月)



思考问题

1. 神的无形的手, “巧合”
2. “For such a time as this”
我们今天相似的机会?
3. 以斯帖的为人处事