Walking with the Captives

Week 4

Esther becomes Queen

Sunday 2

Vashti won't obey the king 2

Monday 4

Vashti is no longer queen 4

Tuesday 6

A new queen is to be chosen 6

Wednesday 8

Esther becomes queen and discovers a plot 8

Thursday 10

Haman's wicked decree 10

Friday 13

Mordecai tells Esther to go to the king 13

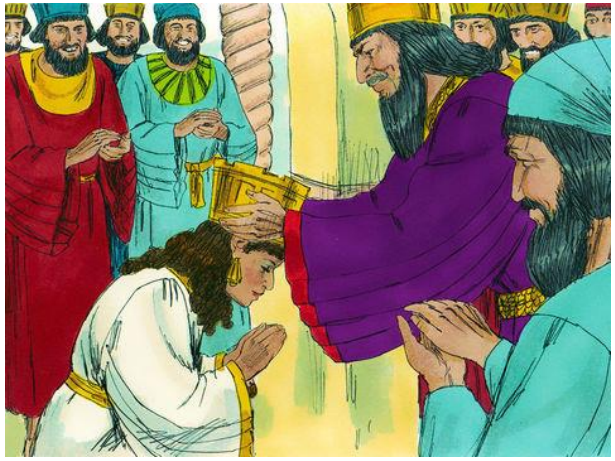
Saturday 15

Esther goes before the king 15

Old English words 18

To read the Bible online go to:

http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/King-James-Version-KJV-Bible/



Esther crowned queen instead of Vashti



King holds out golden sceptre to Esther

To read KJV in 21st Century English go to:

http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/21st-Century-King-James-Version-KJ21-Bible/

Sunday

Vashti won't obey the king

Bible Reading: Esther 1v1-12

The story of Esther happened between the events in Ezra chapters 6+7. But we will learn about Esther before we learn about Ezra.

---

1. Who was the king? (v1)
2. Where did he reign? (v1) *Find it on a map*
3. Where was his palace? (v2) *Find it on a map*
4. What did he do in the 3rd year of his reign? (v3)
5. How long did the feast last? (v4)
6. What did he show off? (v4)
7. Then, what did he do for 7 days? (v5)
8. What was in abundance? (v7)
9. Who was queen? (v9)
10. What did Vashti do? (v9)
11. What did Ahasuerus get 7 servants to do? (v10-11)
12. Why? (v11)
13. What did Vashti do? (v12)
14. How did the king feel? (v12)

Answers

1) Ahasuerus; 2) From India to Ethiopia; 3) Shushan; 4) Made a great feast for all his princes, servants, nobles of the provinces; 5) For 180 days; 6) The riches of his glorious kingdom and honour of his excellent majesty; 7) made a feast for all the people in his palace in Shushan; 8) Royal wine; 9) Vashti; 10) Made a feast for the women in the royal house; 11) Bring queen Vashti to the king with the royal crown on her head; 12) To show her beauty to the people and princes; 13) refused to go to king; 14) Angry

MEANINGS:

Provinces = areas in the kingdom;

Fourscore = 80;

Excellent majesty = royal splendour;

Expired = ended;

Fastened = tied;

Diverse = different;

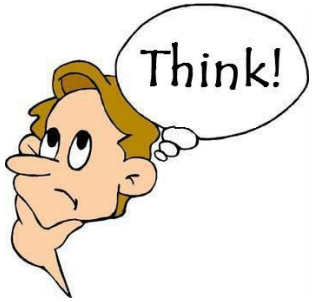
Fair = beautiful;

Chamberlain = servant



Did you know?

Ahasuerus is king Xerxes. He was king of Persia about 486-465 B.C. Ahasuerus is the Hebrew form of his name. Xerxes is the Greek form.



Don't be too hard on Vashti. Remember this was a drunken feast. She knew how men would be looking at her. Do you really think she would have enjoyed their sinful desires and dirty jokes?

"Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."
(Romans 13v13+14)



Persian kings

NAME	B.C. DATE	PERSIAN NAME	BIBLE NAME	BIBLE REFERENCE
Cyrus	539-530	Koorush	Cyrus	Isaiah 45, Daniel Ezra 1-3
Cambysses	530-521	Cambujieh	Ahasruerus	Ezra 4-6
Pseudo Smerdis	521	Berooyeh Doroughi	Artaxerxes	Ezra 4:7-23
Darius the Great	521-486	Darryoosh	Darius	Ezra 5-6
Xerxes	486-465	Khashayarshah	Ahasurerus	Esther 1-10
Artixerxes	464-423	Ardeshier Dernaz Dast	Artaxerxes	Neh. 1-13 Ezra 7:10

Monday

Vashti is no longer queen

Bible Reading: Esther 1v13-22

1. Who were the 7 princes of Media and Persia? (v14)
2. What did the king ask his wise men? (v15)
3. Who did Memucan say Vashti had done wrong to? (v16)
4. What did he say would happen? (v17)
5. What did he say would arise? (v18)
6. What was to happen Vashti? (v19)
7. What was the reason for the decree? (v20)
8. Who did this advice please? (v21)
9. What did the king do? (v22)
10. What was it published in? (v22)



The Bible doesn't tell us why Vashti wouldn't come but she chose to disobey. She lost her home and her crown because she disobeyed.

God has commanded all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17v30). Disobey and you will be shut out of heaven.

When God calls you, do you say 'NO?'

MEANINGS:

Knew the times = understood the times;

Come abroad = become known everywhere;

Reported = told;

Contempt = disrespect;

Royal estate = royal position;

Published = made known;

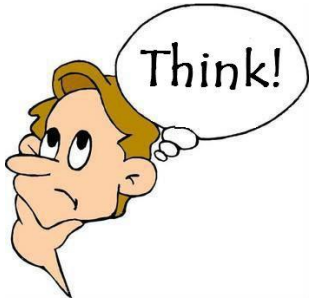
Honour = respect;

Great and small = rich and poor

"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." (Revelation 3v11)

Answers

1) Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan; 2) What would be done with her according to the law because she hadn't obeyed; 3) King, all princes and all people in all provinces; 4) All women would despise their husbands; 5) Too much contempt and wrath; 6) She was no longer queen or come any more before Ahasuerus; 7) That all wives would honour their husbands; 8) The king and the rulers; 9) Sent letters to all his provinces; 10) All the languages of all the people in his kingdom



Ahasuerus' drunken request cost him his marriage. Beware of alcohol. It can make you forget what's right and good. You could end up breaking the law.

"It is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted." (Proverbs 31v4+5)



Stop and Think!

Divorce was not God's original plan (Matthew 19v3-6)

A wife is to be subject to her own husband (1 Peter 3v1). That does NOT mean that she is to obey him to do wrong!

Tuesday

A new queen is to be chosen

Bible Reading: Esther 2v1-11

1. What was appeased? (v1)
2. What did he remember? (v1)
3. Where were beautiful young women brought from? (v3)
4. Where were they brought to? (v3) *Find it on a map*
5. Why? (v4)
6. Who was to care for them? (v3)
7. Why had Mordecai brought up Esther? (v7)
8. What relation was she to him? (v7)
9. What is another name for Esther? (v7)
10. Who became the favourite among the women? (v8+9)
11. What had Mordecai told her NOT to do? (v10)

Perhaps Mordecai already knew there was great danger for the Jews!

---

12. Why did Mordecai walk in the courtyard every day? (v11)

Answers

1) King Ahasuerus' wrath; 2) Vashti, what she had done and what was decreed against her; 3) All the provinces of the kingdom; 4) Shushan palace; 5) The girl that pleased the king would be the new queen; 6) Hegai; 7) Her father and mother were dead; 8) A cousin; 9) Hadassah; 10) Esther; 11) Tell anyone that she was a Jew; 12) To know how Esther was and what had become of her

MEANINGS:

Ministered = served;

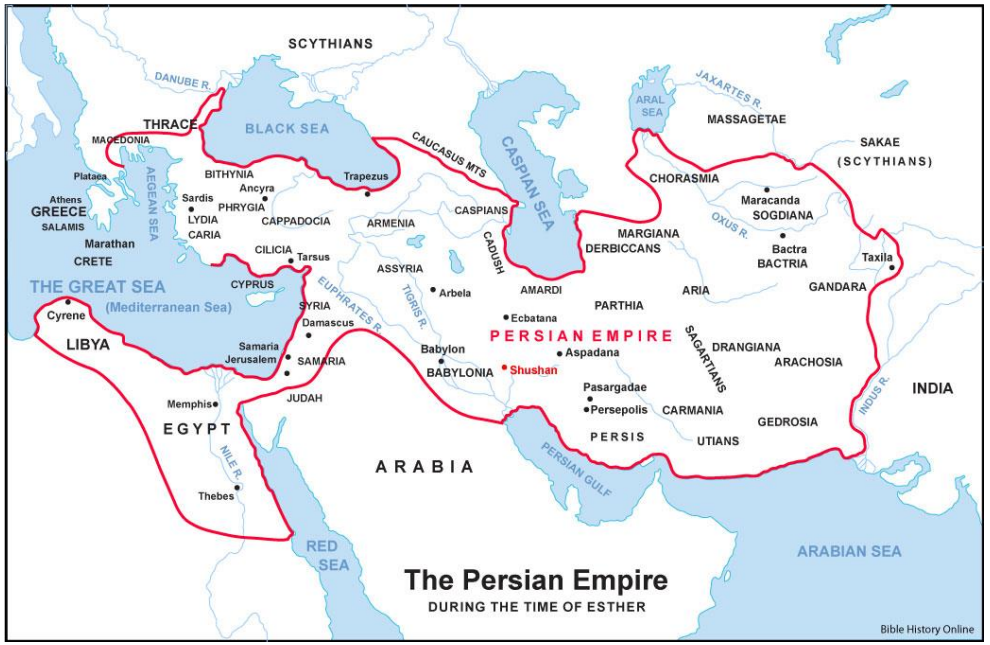
Wrath appeased = anger calmed;

Custody = in the care of;

Things for purification = beauty treatments;

Maiden = young woman;

Kindred = family background;





Did you know?

Mordecai was from the tribe of Benjamin. Jair, Kish and Shimei were well known names of men in Benjamin. King Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin many years before this.

Mordecai had been carried captive with Jehoiachin (v 5+6; 2 Kings 24v6-17)



Why was Esther among women for a heathen king?

Esther probably had no choice in the matter. The most important king in the world had to be obeyed!

BUT God was working out a plan to save the Jewish people.



This was a bit like a beauty contest. But Esther not only had a beautiful appearance. She had a beautiful character. True beauty isn't just skin deep. It shines from the heart.

"Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man." (Proverbs 3v3+4)

Wednesday

Esther becomes queen and discovers a plot

Bible Reading: Esther 2v12-23

1. How long before every woman went in before the king? (v12)
2. What was each one allowed? (v13)
3. Who cared for the women who had been to see the king? (v14)
4. What was the only reason one of them would go back to see the king? (v14)
5. What did Esther require when she went? (v15)
6. What did Esther obtain? (v15)
7. How did the king feel about Esther? (v17)
8. What did he do? (v17)
9. What did the king make? (v18)
10. Where was Mordecai? (v19+21)
11. What plot did Mordecai discover? (v21)
12. What did he do about it? (v22)
13. What happened to them? (v23)
14. Where was it written? (v23)

This was NOT the books of Chronicles in the Bible. These were books of records for the kings of Persia.

Answers

1) After 12 months; 2) Whatever she desired; 3) Shaashgaz; 4) The king delighted in her and called for her; 5) Nothing besides what Hegai gave her; 6) Favour from everyone who saw her; 7) He loved her; 8) Made her queen instead of Vashti; 9) A great feast; 10) The king's gate; 11) That 2 of the king's servants (Bigthan and Teresh) plotted to kill the king; 12) Told Esther; 13) They were hanged on a tree; 14) The book of chronicles

MEANINGS:

Sweet odours = nice scents, perfumes;

Concubine = wife with less rights, mistress;

Release to provinces = holiday in the provinces;

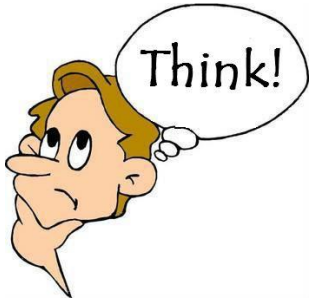
Certified = informed;

Inquisition = investigation



Imagine beauty and spa treatments for a whole year! These girls were well pampered before going to meet the king.

"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised." (Proverbs 31v30)



God was working out His plan behind the scenes....even if Esther didn't know it yet. Wherever you are right now....remember that God is working out His plan and in time He will reveal His purpose for you in it.



God raises people up and puts people down. He has His own reasons for doing so. But He was raising up Esther here to do a great work.

"For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another." (Psalm 75v6+7)

Thursday

Haman's wicked decree

Bible Reading: Esther 3v1-15

1. What did king Ahasuerus do for Haman? (v1)
2. What did the king command? (v2)
3. Who refused to bow to Haman? (v2)
4. What did Mordecai tell them? (v4)
5. How did Haman feel? (v5)
6. So, who did Haman plan to kill? (v6)
7. How much did he offer to pay? (v9)
8. What did the king do? (v10)

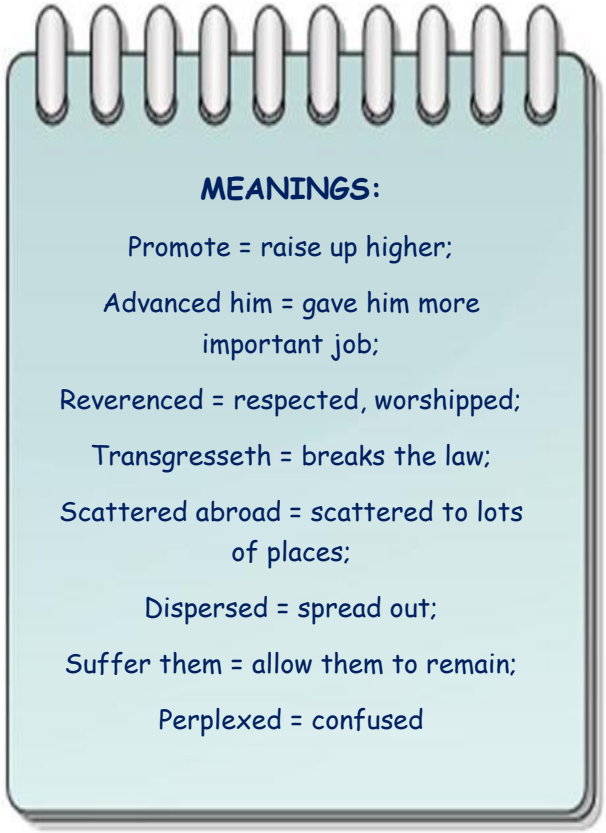
Note the king did not even ask who these people were!

---

9. What did he tell Haman to do? (v11)
10. When were the letters written? (v12)
11. Where were they sent? (v12)
12. When were the Jews to be killed? (v13)
13. What did the king and Haman do? (v15)
14. How was Shushan feeling? (v15)

Answers

1) Promoted him to be above all the other rulers; 2) All the king's servants had to bow to him and reverence him; 3) Mordecai; 4) He was a Jew; 5) Really angry; 6) All the Jews in all the kingdom of Ahasuerus; 7) 10 000 talents of silver; 8) Gave his ring to Haman; 9) Do with the money and people what seemed good to him; 10) On 13th day of the 1st month; 11) To every province in the kingdom; 12) On 13th day of the 12th month; 13) Sat down to drink; 14) Perplexed



"A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit." (Proverbs 29v23)

"When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom." (Proverbs 11v2)



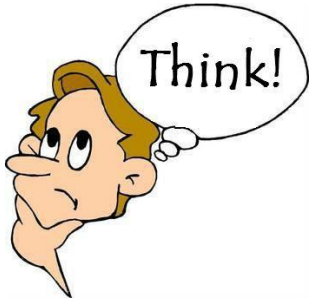
Why would Mordecai not bow?

Yes, we are to worship the One True Living God, not anyone or anything else (Exodus 20v3-6). Mordecai would not bow before Haman to worship him like a god. But there's more:

Haman was a descendant of Agag. Agag was a king of the Amalekites. They were big enemies of the Israelites.

The Amalekites attacked the Israelites shortly after they came out of Egypt. God said they would be destroyed (Exodus 17v8-16). They did not fear God (Deuteronomy 25v17-18).

King Saul did NOT obey God and kill king Agag when he was meant to. Read about it in 1 Samuel 15.



Haman's pride was hurt big time when Mordecai wouldn't bow to him and so he decided to have all the Jews killed.

But he was touching the apple of God's eye....and you don't do that and get away with it!



Did you know?

Jewish months in the Bible were different than ours today.

Jewish month	New moon of
1. Abib / Nisan	March-April
2. Zif / Iyyar	April-May
3. Sivan	May-June
4. Tammuz	June-July
5. Ab / Av	July-August
6. Elul	August-September
7. Ethanim / Tishri	September-October
8. Bul / Marheshvan / Heshvan	October-November
9. Chisleu / Chislev / Kislev	November-December
10. Tebeth / Tevet	December-January
11. Shebat / Shevat	January-February
12. Adar	February-March

Friday

Mordecai tells Esther to go to the king

Bible Reading: Esther 4v1-14

1. What did Mordecai do? (v1)
2. Why could he not go inside the king's gate? (v2)
3. What happened in every province? (v3)
4. How did Esther feel? (v4)
5. Why did she send clothes to Mordecai? (v4)
6. Would he take them? (v4)
7. Who was sent to find out why? (v5+6)
8. What did Mordecai want her to do? (v8)
9. Why was this dangerous? (v11)
10. How long since the king had sent for her? (v11)
11. What did Mordecai warn her of? (v13)
12. What if she kept quiet? (v14)
13. What hope did he give her? (v14)

Answers

1) Tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, went into city and cried loudly; 2) Not allowed to enter the king's gate wearing sackcloth; 3) Great mourning amongst the Jews, fasting, weeping, wailing, some wore sackcloth and ashes; 4) Exceedingly grieved; 5) For him to wear instead of sackcloth; 6) No; 7) Hatach; 8) To go in before the king and plead for him to save her people the Jews; 9) She could be put to death if he did not hold out his golden sceptre to her; 10) 30 days; 11) she wouldn't be saved because she was living at the palace; 12) Deliverance would come from somewhere else; 13) She may have become queen for such a time as that to save her people

MEANINGS:

Perceived = saw, understood;

Rent = tore;

Exceedingly grieved = really, really sad;

Attend upon = wait on, serve;

Supplication = plead for;

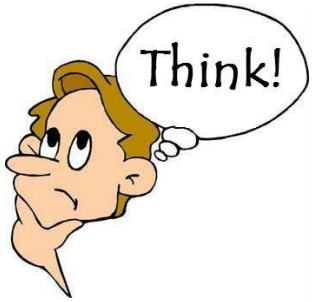
Enlargement = relief;

Holdest thy peace = keep quiet;



Why wear sackcloth?

People in Old Testament times wore sackcloth to show how very sad they were.



You were created to fulfil God's purpose through you in this generation.

God promotes us or puts in a place for a reason, and we need the courage and wisdom to see that reason and to walk in it.

"Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4v14)

Saturday

Esther goes before the king

Bible Reading: Esther 4v15-17; 5v1-5

1. What did Esther say Mordecai was to do? (4v16)
2. How long were they to fast? (v16)
3. What would she do? (v16)
4. What brave words did she say? (v16)
5. How did Esther dress to go in before the king? (5v1)
6. When? (v1)
7. Where was the king? (v1)
8. How did the king feel when he saw Esther? (v2)
9. What did he hold out to her? (v2)
10. What was the king willing to give her? (v3)
11. What did she ask? (v4)

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10v28)

Answers

1) Gather all the Jews in Shushan to fast for her; 2) 3 days and 3 nights; 3) Her and her maidens would fast too and then she would go in before the king; 4) If I perish, I perish; 5) In her royal apparel; 6) On the 3rd day; 7) sitting on his royal throne in the palace; 8) Pleased, she obtained favour with him; 9) His golden sceptre; 10) Up to half of his kingdom; 11) That the king and Haman would come to a banquet that she had prepared for them

MEANINGS:

Bade = ordered to do;

Royal apparel = royal robes;

Over against = across from;

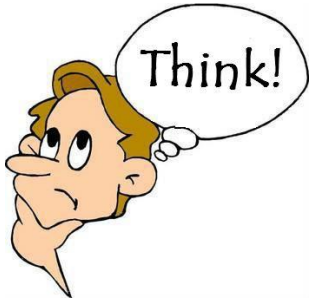
Obtained favour = pleased;

Sceptre = gold staff that king had to show his authority:



Did you know?

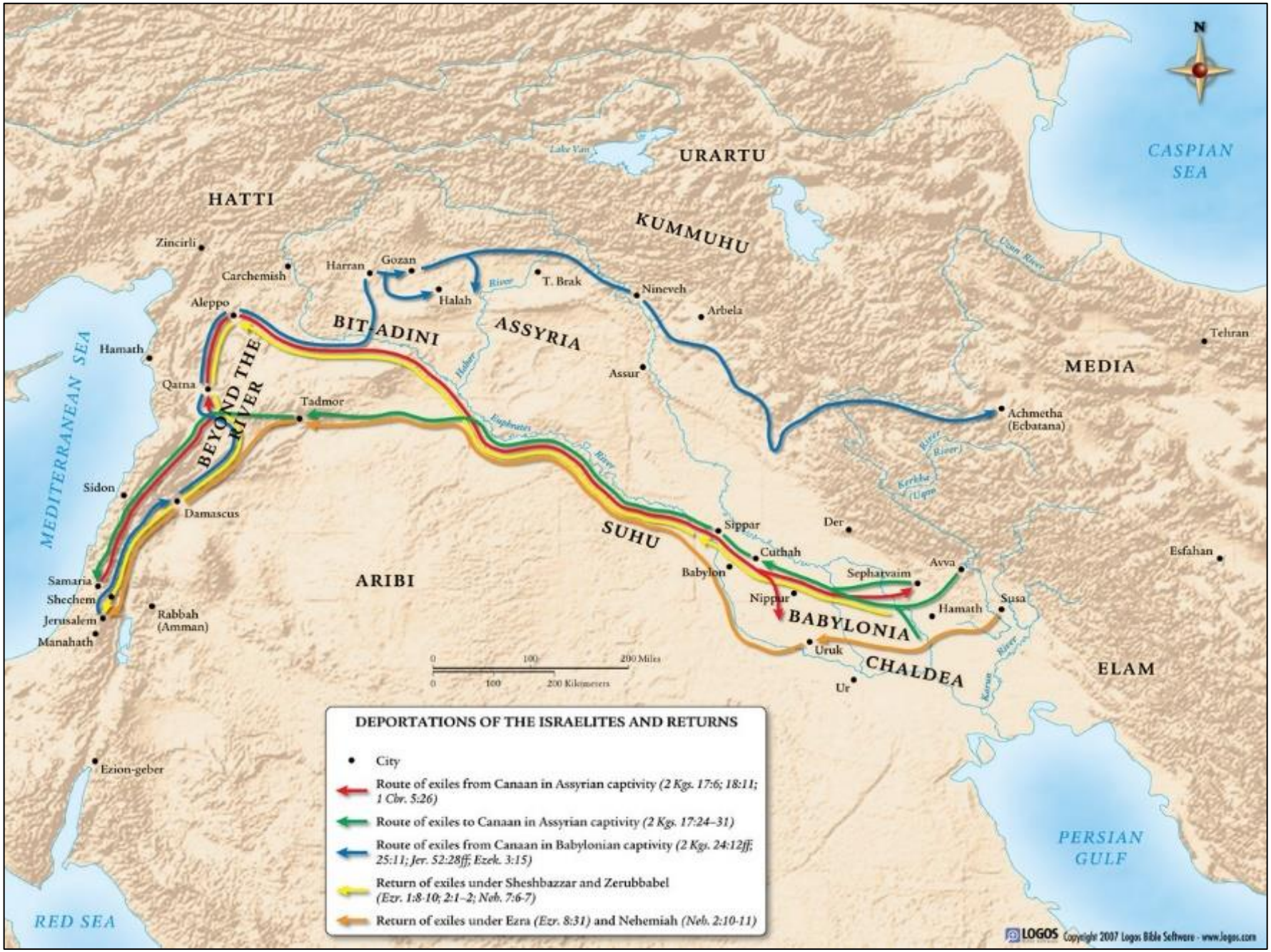
The name of God is not mentioned in the book of Esther....and yet you cannot doubt that God was working out His purpose. Mordecai and Esther trusted God and brought their troubles to Him.



Esther said, "If I perish, I perish." (v16). She was willing to die to save her people. This took courage and faith in God.

But she didn't go before they had a time of fasting. She knew she had to go to God first!

Courage and Faith are strengthened with prayer.


N
CASPIAN SEA
URARTU
HATTI
KUMMUHU
Lake Van
Zincirli
Carchemish
Harran
Gozan
Halah
T. Brak
Nineveh
Arbela
Aleppo
BIT-ADINI
ASSYRIA
Assur
Tehran
MEDIA
Hamath
Qatna
BEYOND THE RIVER
Tadmor
Euphrates
Achmetha (Ecbatana)
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Sidon
Damascus
SUHU
Sippar
Der
Cuthah
Babylon
Avva
Esfahan
Sephatvaim
Samaria
Shechem
Jerusalem
Manahath
Rabbah (Amman)
ARIBI
Nippur
Hamath
Susa
BABYLONIA
Uruk
CHALDEA
ELAM
Ur
0 100 200 Miles
0 100 200 Kilometers
DEPORTATIONS OF THE ISRAELITES AND RETURNS
City
Route of exiles from Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:6; 18:11; 1 Chr. 5:26)
Route of exiles to Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:24–31)
Route of exiles from Canaan in Babylonian captivity (2 Kgs. 24:12ff; 25:11; Jer. 52:28ff; Ezek. 3:15)
Return of exiles under Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel (Ezr. 1:8-10; 2:1–2; Neh. 7:6-7)
Return of exiles under Ezra (Ezr. 8:31) and Nehemiah (Neh. 2:10-11)
Ezion-geber
RED SEA
PERSIAN GULF
LOGOS Copyright 2007 Logos Bible Software - www.logos.com

Old English words

Afar	Far away
Ass	Donkey
Aught	Anything at all
Befallen	Happened to
Dealt	Done
Dost, Doest	Do
Draw nigh	Come near
Fetch	Go and get
Gat	Get, got
Hence	From this place
Hereby	By this
Heretofore	Before now
Hindmost	Last
Hither	Here
Hitherto	Up until now
Howbeit	However, nevertheless
Inasmuch	Since
Midst	Middle
Mixt	Mixed
Nigh	Near
Notwithstanding	Nevertheless, in spite of this
Peradventure	Perhaps
Plow	Plough
Straightway	Immediately
Selfsame	That same
Shew	Show
Thereon	On that
Therewith	With that
Thither	To there
Thou	You *(singular)*
Thou art	You are
Thrust out	Cast out
Uttermost	Farthest
Whence	From where
Wherefore	Why
Wherewith	With which
Whilst	While
Whither	To where
Whomsoever	Whoever
Wilt	Will
Wit, wot, wist	Know
Withholden	Held back
Wont to do	In the habit of doing
Wrought	Done, made

© Search the Word Bible Studies
Answers are based on the Authorized Version of the Bible
http://searchtheword.org.uk/