

The Bible - Week 27 (July 11th)

Eric Swanson / General

Esther

Author: unknown

Date: we can only guess but likely around the middle 400's BCE

Audience: Those who remained under Persian control.

Reason: To give us the story of the origin of Purim and to show how God was still with those in exile

Theme: Saving of God's people

Key Verse:

Esther 4:14 CEB

In fact, if you don't speak up at this very important time, relief and rescue will appear for the Jews from another place, but you and your family will die. But who knows? Maybe it was for a moment like this that you came to be part of the royal family."

Sections: Esther becomes Queen (Chapter 1-2), Threats against Jews (Chapters 3-4), Jewish victory (Chapters 5-10)

Key Words: Queen, Jews, Banquet, Decree

Basic Intro: This book is an amazing book of God once again saving his people from doom through the faithful work of individuals.

Questions for Discussion:

• **This could be considered a form of anti-semitism. How**

should the church respond to anti-semitism and other such actions?

- **How can we use Esther's boldness against the king for our boldness today.**
- **What do you make of the lack of God's name in this book? Is this important to you or not?**