

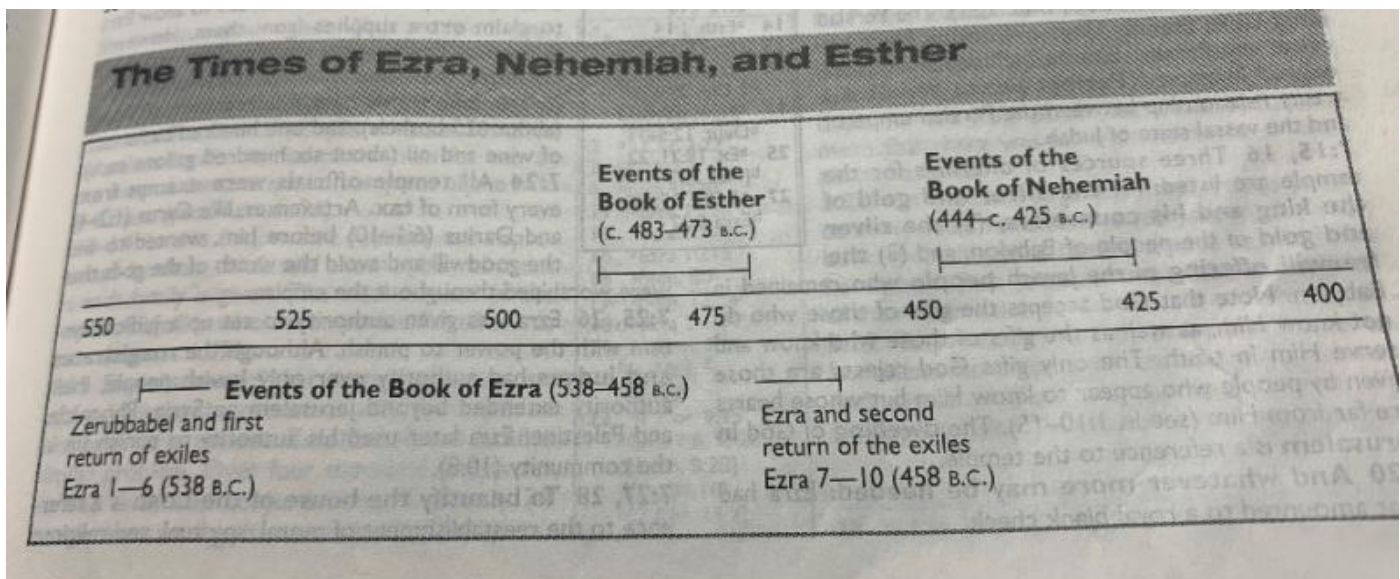
# An Old Testament Glance

## The History Books – Esther

<b>Written</b>	450 BC	<b>Period*</b>	480-475 BC	<b>Author</b>	Unknown
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\*Dates are sometimes hard to know. They can vary depending on scholars & sources of information.

Esther 1-2	Esther Becomes the Queen
Esther 3	The Plot of Jewish Genocide
Esther 4	Esther Agrees to Help Her People
Esther 5-6	Two Banquets
Esther 7	Haman Died
Esther 8-10	The Damages to the Jewish People are Reversed



- Cyrus the Great (r. 550-530 BC)
- Cambyses II (r. 530-522 BC)
- Bardiya (r. 522 BC)
- Darius I The Great (r. 522-486 BC)
- Xerxes I (r. 485-465 BC) (This is King Ahasuerus in Esther)
- Artaxerxes I (r. 465-424 BC)
- Darius II (r. 424-404 BC)
- Artaxerxes II (r. 404-358 BC)

1. What were the two names of the king of Persia who married Esther? (Est. 1:1)

*Xerxes (or Ahasuerus), the son of Darius, was mad that some of his dad's battles were failures. Most of his reign involved military activities; many were defeats or at least failures. He came back home & build many building – spending lots of money.*

*During Xerxes' reign, Zerubbabel had been sent to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. So, there was rebuilding going on in Jerusalem & turmoil going in Persia. Xerxes was loose with the women & had a leud reputation.*

2. What happened when he requested his queen to come to him? (Est. 1:12)

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*The king then fired the queen & Esther was chosen to replace her. This was God's plan because the Jews still living in Persia were in danger (Est. 3:9).*

3. Who was the evil man who hated the Jews? (Est. 3:1) \_\_\_\_\_

*Esther's adoptive father, Mordecai, found out about the evil plan being devised, told Esther who told the king. Mr. Haman was hanged and the Jews in Persia were safe.*

4. **What kind of a woman was Esther?** Describe her. This is the person God used to save the Jews from destruction in Persia while the temple was being rebuilt in Jerusalem.

- a. Esther 2:7 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Esther 2:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Esther 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Esther 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Esther 2:17 \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Esther 2:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Esther 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Esther 4:17 \_\_\_\_\_

*The King of Persia (Xerxes or Ahasuerus) was grateful for being able to save the Jews in his kingdom & being spared of an assassination attempt. He, promoted Mordecai (Esther's adoptive father) to second in command in Persia.*

5. Please comment on this statement: "God is not mentioned once in the book of Esther; however, we see God all through the book of Esther.

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*Xerxes was assassinated a few years later because when Ezra was sent to Jerusalem, he was sent by Xerxes son, Artaxerxes. Isn't it amazing that in the middle of the Jews returning to Jerusalem, God was also working in Persia. God works in all of our lives all the time working out His plan.*