

Bible Question Class Books

Bible Study Questions on **Esther**

By David E. Pratte

**A workbook suitable for Bible classes,
family studies, or personal Bible study**



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Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge the student to study to understand Scripture. The material is copyrighted, but each student has permission to print copies of the material for his/her personal or family study. I suggest that each student print a copy of these questions and place them in a notebook. In addition, teachers are permitted to make copies for students they teach in a class or home Bible study setting. See copyright notes at the end of this material for further information.

Questions labeled "think" are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned.

I also **strongly** urge teachers to use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive in-class discussion. Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: "Joe, will you answer number 1?" "Sue, what about number 2?" Etc. Instead, let the questions be assigned as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered "correctly."

I also urge the class to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over "What did the author mean by question #5?" My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on. (Note: My abbreviation "**b/c/v**" means "book, chapter, and verse.")

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

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For whatever good this material achieves, to God be the glory.

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Assignments on Esther 1

Please read Esther 1 and answer the following questions.

1. Skim the book of Esther and state the theme.
2. Who was the king? Where did he reign?
3. For whom did the king make a feast, and what was its purpose? How long did it last?
4. Describe how the palace was furnished for the feast in vv 5-7.
5. Who was Vashti? What request did the king make of her? Why?
6. How did Vashti respond? How did the king react? (Think: Do you believe Vashti's action was justified? Explain.)
7. Whom did the king consult regarding the matter? What did he ask them?
8. Who answered? What concern did he express?
9. What did he advise the king to decree? What purpose would this serve?
10. What was special about royal decrees among the Persians and Medes (v19)? What did the king decide to do?

Assignments on Esther 2

Please read Esther 2 and answer the following questions.

1. What plan did the king's servants suggest for replacing Vashti?
2. Who was Mordecai? How had his family come to be in Persia?
3. What was Esther's other name? What was her connection to Mordecai?

4. **Application:** According to the Bible, who has the primary responsibility to care for needy people (such as widows and orphans)? Give **b/c/v**. What can we learn from Mordecai's example?

5. Describe how Esther came to be chosen as a candidate to replace Vashti. What was done for her then?

6. Who knew Esther's ancestry? Why?

7. Describe how each young woman would visit the king?

8. What happened when Esther's turn came? What was the end result?

9. **Special Assignment:** Compare Old Testament teaching about divorce and remarriage to New Testament teaching. Why was Esther allowed to marry a divorced man who had other wives? In light of Ezra 9,10, etc., why was she allowed to marry one who was not a Jew?

10. Who were Bigtha and Teresh? What did they try to do?

11. How was their plot uncovered? What was the result?

Assignments on Esther 3

Please read Esther 3 and answer the following questions.

1. Who was Haman? What position was he given?

2. How was he honored? Who refused to do this?

3. Describe how firm Mordecai was in his stand. What reason is given for this? (Think: Was bowing to a ruler always wrong? For what reason might Mordecai have refused?)

4. **Application:** List some lessons we can learn from Mordecai's conduct?

5. How did Haman feel regarding Mordecai's conduct? What did he decide to do? (Think: What does this tell you about Haman's character?)

6. How did Haman decide the time for executing his plot? **Define** "Pur."

7. What reason did Haman give the king for wanting to destroy "a certain people"?

8. What did he offer to pay if the king would agree?

9. How was the decree written and circulated to the people?

10. What did the decree say?

11. **Special Assignment:** Explain why such a decree would be important in Bible history.

Assignments on Esther 4

Please read Esther 4 and answer the following questions.

1. How did Mordecai act when he learned about the decree? Why would he be especially upset?
2. How did other Jews react? Explain the significance of sackcloth, ashes, and fasting.
3. What did Esther do when she heard Mordecai was so distressed? How did he respond (v4)?
4. Whom did Esther then send to Mordecai, and for what purpose?
5. What information did Mordecai send to Esther, and what did he ask her to do?
6. What reason did Esther give for not going before the king? How long had it been since the king had called for her?
7. What did Mordecai warn Esther about in v13? In what sense is this also true of us if we fail to serve God?
8. What did Mordecai say would happen if Esther did not speak up (v14)? On what basis could he know this to be true?
9. Explain Mordecai's statement: "Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Think: Do we always know what purpose God may have for putting us in a certain position? Explain.)

10. **Special Assignment: Define** providence. List and explain several lessons we can learn about providence from v14.

11. What decision did Esther make? What did she want people to do on her behalf?

Assignments on Esther 5

Please read Esther 5 and answer the following questions.

1. List several reasons why it would have been hard for Esther to seek an audience with the king.

2. **Application:** List some admirable qualities we can observe in Esther.

3. What did the king do when Esther stood before him? What promise did he make her? (Think: Do all the bad things we anticipate really come to pass?)

4. What was Esther's first request (v4)? (Think: Why might she have done this instead of just making her ultimate request?)

5. **Special Assignment:** What harmful methods did Esther avoid that some wives sometimes use to get their way with their husbands?

6. How did the king respond to Esther's first request? What did he say to her at her banquet?

7. What request did she make then? (Think: Would you have been as patient as Esther was in getting to the point?)

8. How did Haman feel as he left the banquet? What upset him as he went home? (Think: Why might Esther have invited Haman to the banquets?)

9. List four things Haman bragged about when he got home. What did he say upset him?

10. What did his inner circle advise him to do? How did he respond?

11. **Application:** Describe several characteristics of Haman that we should avoid.

Assignments on Esther 6

Please read Esther 6 and answer the following questions.

1. What problem did the king have that night? What did he do as a result (v1)?
2. What did he learn about (v2)? How would this relate to Haman's claim that the Jews were of no profit to the king?
3. What question did the king ask, and what was the answer?
4. Who had come during the meantime? What did the king ask him?
5. Whom did Haman think the king wanted to honor? What does this show about him?
6. Describe the honor Haman suggested be given.
7. What command did the king then give? Who led the horse?
8. Explain how this outcome differed from what Haman had intended to achieve that day.
9. How did Haman return home this time? What did he tell his wife and friends?
10. What conclusion did his friends reach? (Think: What does this show about the friends?)
11. What summons did Haman then receive?

Assignments on Esther 7

Please read Esther 7 and answer the following questions.

1. At the second banquet what did the king ask, and what promise did he make?

2. What was her request, and why did she make it?

3. What problem did she say she could have borne without speaking? In that case, how did she describe the king's loss?

4. What questions did the king ask, and what answer did she give?

5. **Application:** What can we learn about our teaching from: (1) the fact that Esther directly named the man who was guilty, and (2) she invited him to the meeting and accused him to his face?

6. How did Haman feel at hearing Esther's accusation? What lessons can we learn?

7. What did the king do after he heard Esther's request? What did Haman do in the meanwhile?

8. When the king returned, what did he see? What did he think?

9. What information was then given to the king? What decision did he make?

10. **Special Assignment:** List as many things as you can regarding this outcome that are ironic.

11. **Application:** What lessons can we learn from the story at this point?

Assignments on Esther 8

Please read Esther 8 and answer the following questions.

1. What position did the king give Esther? What did she tell the king about (v1)?
2. What did the king do for Mordecai? What did Esther do for him?
3. Despite these achievements, what problem yet remained? What did Esther do about it?

4. **Application:** List other examples from life in which the evil things people do may out-live them.

5. Why was Haman's decree not simply reversed? What did the king authorize Esther and Mordecai to do?

6. How was Mordecai's decree made known to the people?

7. What did the decree state? How did this decree differ from the original decree?

8. Describe the honors that were given Mordecai.

9. How did the Jews feel about the new decree? How were other people affected?

10. Although the new decree did not directly revoke the old decree, how would Mordecai's position and favor help counteract the first decree?

Assignments on Esther 9,10

Please read Esther 9,10 and answer the following questions.

1. What day arrived at this point in the story? What had the Jews' enemies hoped to achieve then?
2. Where did the Jews meet? Why could no one withstand them?
3. Who helped the Jews? Why?
4. Describe the respect shown to Mordecai.
5. What did the Jews do to their enemies? Specifically, what happened in Shushan?
6. What did the king ask Esther, and how did she respond?
7. What happened to Haman's sons, and what happened in Shushan on the second day?
8. What did the Jews in the rest of the provinces do? How many died?
9. What days were involved for conflict and rest in the empire? How did this differ from the days for the Jews in Shushan?
10. What proclamation did Mordecai make for the Jews? What did the Jews do on those days?
11. What was the feast called, and what did it commemorate?

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