

The book of Esther-Inspired or Not?

There are many bible scholars today who doubt that the book of Esther is part of the Old Testament, & is also historically correct. Is this the case? And if this is the case, Why?

But before we answer these questions, let us look at the contents of Esther, the time period covered & its Message.

Esther was a Jewish orphan girl from the tribe of Benjamin, whose Hebrew name Hadash, meaning MYRTLE. She was a descendant from among the Jews deported from Jerusalem along with King Jehoiachin around about 617 BCE. (READ Ester 2:5/7)

The Period covered is around the years 493/475 BCE & was evidently written by Mordecai, Esther's Uncle. Mordecai was in position to know all the minute facts about what occurred, & also what transpired in Shushan & the royal castle. After he was promoted to being the Prime Minister for the Persian Government he would also have had access to all the official documents of this time, & Just as Daniel, Ezra, & Nehemiah held official positions in the government of Persia during other time periods, & wrote books describing the relationship of the Jews to THEIR CAPTORS, so Mordecai, with the Help & Blessing of his heavenly father, Jehovah, was the most likely one to have written the book of Ester.

Now let us look at its contents, Chapter one deals with the events leading up to Ester being chosen as queen. The Queen at that time was VASHTI, & She is removed from this position for refusing a royal command from her Husband, AHASUERUS *****to appear before him during a banquet. Let us read Esther 1:19-20. *****We will deal Later on with who this King Was*****

Chapter 2: 1:20 goes on to explain how Esther is chosen.

Chapter 3, deals with the conspiring of Haman to have the Jews Exterminated, because Mordecai refuses to bow to him, after the King has exalted Haman above all other Princes in the Realm.

Chapter 4, discusses how Mordecai Instructs Queen Esther to appeal personally to the King, even though her life may be endangered by appearing before him uninvited.

Chapter 5, discusses how Esther is favorably received by the king & she Invites the king & Haman to attend a banquet the following day. Again, Morceau refuses to bow down to Haman, so Haman erects a very tall stake from which he hopes to persuade the king to hang Mordecai on.

Chapter 6 & 7 explains how this plot to Hang Mordecai is overturned, & during the banquet held the following day, Esther exposes Haman's plots towards her & her people for their destruction. Furious at this the king Orders Haman to be hung on the stake prepared for Mordecai.

Chapter 8 Deals with Mordecai's reward from the king & the Jews are saved from destruction, & in the following Chapter 9, the Jews, with the Kings permission are allowed to protect themselves from Haman's allies & friends. At that time, 75,000 of the Jews enemies are slain. This event then becomes the festival of Purim, which was to be celebrated & observed by all Jews & their descendants.

Chapter 10, The last chapter Tells us that Mordecai is exalted & becomes the second most Powerful in the Kingdom, only answering to the King. It closes saying that Mordecai spends the rest of his life working for the good of his people the Jews. That is only a very Brief description of the book of Esther.

Now let us look at Its Historical Value, & why It Is part of the Divine book, The Bible, The Word of God.

As Stated in my Introduction, there are many Critics of the account of Esther, some stating that because it is not quoted or alluded to in the Christian Greek Scriptures, it cannot be part of the Bible. This does not give conclusive proof to that argument, as the same applies to the books of Ezra, & Ecclesiastes, & these are widely accepted for their canonicity. Jerome, Augustine & Origen all refer to the book by name. It Is also in the Chester Beatty collection which is a collection of Old testament fragments from the 3rd Century, Including as well as Esther, Fragments from Ezekiel, & Daniel. The Jews have no trouble with its Authenticity, & in their Bibles, it is mostly placed between Ecclesiastes & Daniel. Also, Historical & Archaeological findings have added more proof in confirming the Authenticity of the book of Ester. The way the Persians honored a man is described perfectly in Esther 6;8 READ. White & Blue, or Violet were the royal Persian colours, as recorded in Esther 8:15 READ.

Another very important detail is revealed in Esther 5:1-2 READ. Excavations have revealed that the details just read are true & Accurate in all details. A corridor led from the house of the women to the inner court, & at the side of the court opposite the corridor was the hall, or throne room of the palace. The throne was situated on the opposite wall, & from this vantage point, the king could look over the screen & see the Queen, or any other person waiting for an audience with him.

Also, other details of the book of Esther show that the writer had an Intimate knowledge of the palace layout. It is therefore evident that objections to the book being unhistorical & Inaccurate as to Persian manners & customs are unfounded.

Now as far as the king AHASUERUS Is concerned, it is generally accepted that he was in Fact EXERXES, the son of Darius Hystaspis, also known as Darius the great. He is the Darius mentioned in the book of Ezra who was responsible for helping the Jews rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. With his help the Temple went on to a successful completion, this was around the year 515 BCE, let us read together Ezra 6,12&15. Since Darius was a pagan& worshiped false gods, this work on the Temple was guided by someone else than Darius & his false gods. Unknowingly he was carrying out the purpose of the highest God, Jehovah! It should also be noted that Darius, & his government at that time had a tolerance towards the Jews.

Just before his death in 486 BCE he, that is Darius, had been planning a Grecian campaign, to revenge the defeat of the Persian army during the Battle of Marathon in the year 490 BCE. After his death, he was succeeded by his Son Ahasuerus, or Xerxes which brings us to the period covered by the Book of Esther. During this Period, The Persian Empire extended from India to Ethiopia, & Included 127 provinces, or districts. This vastness of the Empire answers another criticism, & that is referred to in Esther 1:3-4, READ. Critics accuse the writer of exaggerating the banquet covering 180 days. According to "The Commentary on the old testament, by C. Kiel & F. Delitzch, Vol 111, Written in 1973, they make the note that such a long feast may have been held to accommodate the numerous officials from these 127 provinces, who because of their duties, could not have been there for all of it, & all at the same time. Actually, the scripture does not say that the banquet lasted 180 days, but that the king showed them the riches & glory of his kingdom during this period. Another criticism that people Raise about the

book of Esther is that it is an Irreligious book, because it does not directly Mention God. Nevertheless, it tells of fasting, & the Jews crying for aid, implying prayer. Let's READ Esther 4:3&16 Also Esther 9:31.

Another event referred to is in Esther 6:1 READ. This indicates that Jehovah maneuvered this event of sleeplessness of the king at an opportune time, also the maneuvering of events mentioned in Esther 4:14, READ. By Esther being chosen as queen she was able to save the Jews & her own household, notice what is states here, that if she did not intervene, Deliverance Would Come from Some Other Source!!

I think we know what another Source Mordecai was referring to.! Another point to notice is that when Mordecai refused to bow down before Haman, who was a Agagite, of the royal line of the Amalekites, Sworn enemies of the Jews, & their god Jehovah. We remember that the Amalekites were the first to attack the Nation of Israel after they Left Egypt. Let us READ of this Account in Deut 25:17-19. So, as a sworn enemy of his god & his people, Mordechai refused to Honor him, thus showing that Mordecai was a worshiper of Jehovah.

So, although God is not personally mentioned there is no reason to say that God is not alluded to in the book of Esther. As far as the descriptions & accuracy of the book of Esther are concerned they cannot be denied. Shushan, the scene of the events recorded in the book of Esther were excavated by French archaeologists between 1880 & 1890. The royal palace of XERXES, covering about 2.5 Acres was uncovered, revealing the splendor & Magnificence of the Persians Kings. These finds confirmed the accuracy of all the details set down by the writer of Esther relating to the administration of the Persians & the construction of the royal palace. I quote from a book entitled "THE MONUMENTS & THE OLD TESTAMENT, By I.M. PRICE, 1946, P 408." There is no event described in the old testament whose structural surroundings can be so vividly & accurately restored from actual excavations as Shushan the palace.

But doubters & critics will say that there is no proof that Esther, OR Mordechai existed, that this is only a story based in a historical period centuries before. What they do not want to acknowledge is that the bible is always correct. There have been countless finds in the last one or two hundred years that have proved it.

For example, scholars claimed that Moses could not have written the early books of the bible as writing had not been invented now, but in 1974 Italian Archaeologists found approx. 17,000 cuneiform tablets at the ancient site of Elba in northern Syria. The inscriptions on these artifacts place them prior to the 24th Century BCE, around the time of the flood, aprox 2370 BCE. Similar finds were uncovered in EGYPT & Mesopotamia. These tablets show that writing was common, centuries before Moses. Also until the time prior to the 1930s it was stated that the Jewish captivity by the Babylonians did not take place. Scholars said it was just another Jewish Myth, this is really on par with those who believe that the holocaust of world war 2 did not take place. Between 1935 & 1938 important discoveries were made 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem, at a site thought to be Ancient Lachish. This city is one of the cities recorded in the bible as being besieged by the king of Babylon at the same time as the siege of Jerusalem took place. Let us READ JEREMIAH 34.7. Twenty-one pottery Fragments inscribed in ancient Hebrew were uncovered. Called the LACHISH OSTRACA, they were written during the exact time that the Babylonian siege took place. Some were communications between the city's military commander & a outlying observation post vividly depicting the final days of Judah's desperate struggle against Babylon. It is also an important find as these Tablets also contain the divine Name, YAHWEH, or

JEHOVAH. Since then, there have been more discoveries of Babylonian tablets describing the conquest of Jerusalem by NEBUCHADNEZZAR. The fact of the Jewish captivity by Babylon is a historical FACT.

The fact is Brethren that we could quote from hundreds of archaeological finds that prove that the bible is the word of god.

A recent & important find is the POOL OF SILOAM UNCOVERED IN OLD JERUSALEM.#####

Workers repairing a sewage pipe break uncovered this pool. The pool of Siloam is central to the account of the miracle of Jesus healing a blind man from birth. Let us read John 9:1-7 READ.

Unfortunately, this archaeological event received very little attention, but again it shows us that everything mentioned in the bible is correct.

We can be confident that the bible is inspired of god as we read in 2nd Timothy 3.16 READ.

:TO ANSWER THE QUESTION THEN :IS THE BOOK OF ESTHER INSPIRED & PART OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES WE CAN ANSWER "YES". Thank you, brethren.

###The pool that was on display was thought to be the original pool of Siloam which was restored by an Empress of the Byzantine period in the 5th Century.

The real pool where Jesus performed his miracle on the blind man was discovered by repair works carried out on a broken sewage in the year 2004. An archaeologist from the Israel Antiquities Authority was working nearby at the time halted work & documented & photographed the site. Up to the year 2006 exploration of this site was still ongoing.