

NOTE TAKER

ESTHERLesson Objectives:

- 1) The student will be able to recognize the various issues of authorship, date of writing and theme of Esther.
- 2) The student will be able to list and describe the major theological themes of Esther.

Objective 1 - The student will be able to recognize the various issues of authorship, date of writing and theme of Esther.

Esther

1. Author –
2. Date –
3. Theme:

Objective 2 - The student will be able to list and describe the major theological themes of Esther.

1. The events of this book cover a 10-year portion (483 – 473) of the reign of _____ I (486-465).
2. Ahasuerus is the Hebrew form of his _____, equivalent of the Persian's Khshayarsha and the Greek Xerxes.
3. The events occurred between those recorded in the sixth and seventh chapters of _____.
4. Though the name of God is nowhere mentioned in the book, His sovereignty and providence are evident throughout:
 - d. Vashti's _____
 - e. Esther's regal _____
 - f. Xerxes' indebtedness to _____
5. The book also explains the origin of the Feast of _____ (2 Maccabees 15:36) on the 13th & 14th days of Adar (Feb – Mar), when Jews celebrate their deliverance from _____.

“36 And they all decreed by public vote never to let this day go unobserved, but to celebrate the thirteenth day of the twelfth month—which is called Adar in the Aramaic language—the day before Mordecai's day.”

6. Esther 4:14 is the best known verse in the book, emphasizing the theme of God's _____ of all events.

14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, *then* shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?

7. The _____ of _____

a. This is the ideological _____ of the Book.

b. In Israel's history the prophets spoke of the constant care given its nation by God both in _____ and _____.

c. All things happen at God's _____.

d. The story of Esther is to be read within this particular _____ of the Old Testament.

e. The most pervasive teaching in the entire book is the importance and extent of God's _____ – his sovereignty over nature, nations and individuals.

f. There is no exact _____ in the Hebrew Bible for the English word "providence." The concept of God's superintendence or preservation of creatures is evident throughout the old Testament

2. Job 10:12 "Thou hast granted me life and _____, and thy _____ hath preserved my spirit."

2. 6486 פקדָה. pequddah {pek-ood-daw'}

Meaning: 1) oversight, care, custody, mustering, visitation, store 1a) visitation, punishment 1b) oversight, charge, office, overseer, class of officers 1c) mustering 1d) store

8. "After God has breathed the breath of life into each person, he guards or protects that life by his providence, which means God's directing the course of events that befall a person."

John Hartley, *New International Commentary of the Old Testament – Job*, page 187

9. "The notion of providence encapsulates the conviction that God sustains the world that He has created and directs it to its appointed destiny. Belief in God's Providence evokes not only humility and wonder, but also gratitude and trust, for believers know God as Father and believe that 'all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.'"

New Dictionary of Biblical Theology

10. "God is continually involved with all created things in such a way that he (1) keeps them existing and maintaining the properties with which he created them; (2) cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do; and (3) directs them to fulfill his purposes."

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, page 315

11. "Providence is that continuous agency of God by which he makes all the events of the physical and moral universe fulfill the original design with which he created it. As Creation explains the existence of the universe, and as Preservation explains its continuance, so Providence explains its evolution (development) and progress."

Augustus H. Strong, *Systematic Theology*, page 419

12. "The continuous activity of God whereby he makes all the events of the physical, mental, and moral realms work out his purpose, and this purpose is nothing short of the original design of God in creation."

Henry C. Thiessen, *Lectures in Systematic Theology*, page 122

g. God's _____ is the driving force of the narrative.

h. The author of Esther wanted is readers to see the mystery of God's hand in _____.

i. He chose to show how human decision and action are the _____ of divine purpose.

8. The _____ of _____

a. "One Worldview is represented by Haman who believed in fate and tried to use it to destroy his enemies. Haman was very proud; even though he believed in fate, he thought he could control the direction of events. This belief in fate was part of the worldview that pervaded all the ancient world except Israel. It was based on a kind of pantheistic outlook that sees innate laws in the totality of the universe; even the gods were subject to these laws. Thus they used magic against each other. This worldview formed the basis of astrology, the horoscope, omens and magic practices that the Old Testament strongly condemns."

Mervin Breneman, *New American Commentary on Esther*, page 296

Esther 3:7 "In the first month, that *is*, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that *is*, the **lot**, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, *to* the twelfth *month*, that *is*, the month Adar."

b. In his conclusion, the author of Esther called attention to the foolishness of such _____ on supernatural power other than the Lord's.

Esther 9:24 – 25 "24 Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that *is*, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them; 25 But when *Esther* came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows."

c. The author showed the biblical perspective of how people's _____ affect history – belief in a God who stands not only above history but is the force behind it. Human agents are the tools God uses to bring justice.

d. The Jews occupy a special place in divine _____.

9. _____ to God's _____

a. In the characters of Esther and Mordecai we find examples of how to _____ the obedient life.

b. Esther constantly did the right _____, made the right _____ and said the right _____, embodying faith even when her life was in danger.

10. The Danger of Anti-_____