

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME TWO
THE STORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE—A SURVEY OF JOSHUA—ESTHER
ESTHER: BEAUTY AND THE BEST
A SURVEY OF ESTHER



The Heart of the Matter

The book of Esther could appear, at first glance, to be a fictional work. It bears all the marks of a short story: a dramatic plot, a villain, a hero, a damsel in distress, and a surprising climax, followed by everyone living happily ever after. But it is absolutely authentic, bearing all the marks of inspired literature. It is, in fact, a vital link in the chain of Jewish history, as it reveals what neither Ezra nor Nehemiah includes: crucial experiences of the Jews who remained in Persia. As we dig into this account, keep an eye on the central crisis that drives the work.



Discovering the Way

1. Unique Facts about Esther

We see in Esther a series of strong contrasts with Ruth that links these two women who are so significant in Jewish history.

2. Dramatic Account of Esther

God providentially placed Esther in just the right situations throughout the book, giving her the opportunity to advocate for her people.

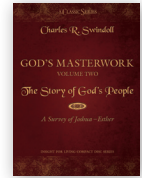


Starting Your Journey

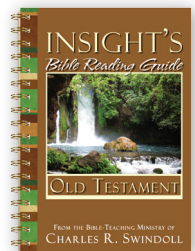
We can learn two clear lessons from a survey of Esther. First, the providence of God does not require high visibility. Second, just because a woman obeys or submits to her husband does not mean she has low esteem.



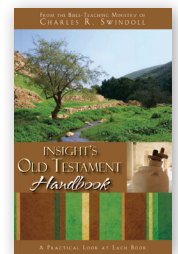
Tools for Digging Deeper



**God's Masterwork
Volume Two
The Story of God's
People—A Survey of
Joshua—Esther**
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series



**Insight's Bible Reading
Guide: Old Testament**
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ESTHER

God's providence among His people during . . .

	Hard Times				Happy Times		
	King's Banquet	Haman's Edict	Queen's Courage	God's Deliverance	Mordecai's Edict	Jews' Rejoicing	Shalom!
	Honoring the kingdom		Urging of Mordecai	Mordecai honored		Enemies destroyed	
	Honoring the new queen		Approaching the king	Haman hanged		Feast established	
	CHAPTERS 1-2	CHAPTER 3	CHAPTERS 4-5	CHAPTERS 6-7	CHAPTER 8	CHAPTER 9	CHAPTER 10
Circumstances	Threat and trust				Deliverance and praise		
Feasts	of the king	of the queen			of the nation		
Dates	483 BC				473 BC		
Theme	The sovereign accomplishment of God's purposes through ordinary people and apparent coincidences						
Key Verses	4:12-16; 10:3						
Christ in Esther	Pictured in Esther, who was an advocate for her people, even willing to die for them						

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