

"Introduction to Esther: Is God Absent?"

1 Cor. 10:1-4

March 19, 2023

I. Historical Introduction

- A. Esther is a true, historical account.
- B. The events in Esther took place around 480 BC.
- C. The setting of Esther is the capital city of the Persian Empire.
- D. The main characters in Esther are Jews who had not returned to Israel even after Cyrus the Great authorized their return.

II. Esther's Connection to God's People Today

A. The Spiritual Connection:

- 1. The history of God's Old Testament people is now *our* history. ("our fathers..." 1 Cor. 10:1)
- 2. As their spiritual heirs, we are meant to learn from what happened to them.

1 Corinthians 10:11 - Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...

B. The Situational Connection:

- 1. God appears to be absent from the people and events found in the book of Esther – the same often appears true in our day.
- 2. God's people in Esther are compromised by their surrounding culture – the same is often the case today.
- 3. Yet then and now, God acts on His people's behalf, while moving them from compromise to faithfulness. (1 Thess. 5:23-24)