

## Esther

- Written between 460 B.C. (Ezra's return) and 331 B.C. (Greek conquest of Persia)
- Author unknown
- Set in during reign of Ahasuerus (Xerxes I), who ruled Persia from 486-465
- Susa, made capital of Persian Empire by Cambyses II (d. 522 B.C.) continually inhabited since 4200 B.C., settled since 7000 B.C.
- Themes:
  - The Remnant – preserved through the grace of God
  - Feasting: 10 Banquets
  - Purim

### Outline:

- I. The Feasts of Xerxes (1.1-2.18)
  - Queen Vashti Deposed (1)
  - Esther Made Queen (2.1-18)
  
- II. The Feasts of Esther (2.19-7.10)
  - Mordecai Uncovers a Plot (2.19-23)
  - Haman the Agagite's Plot (3)
    - from Agag, King of Amalekites (Exod. 17.8-16; 1 Samuel 15)
  - Mordecai Persuades Esther to Help (4)
  - Esther's Request (5.1-8)
  - Sleepless Night (5.9-6.14)
  - Haman Hanged: Esther's Second Banquet (7)
  
- III. The Feasts of Purim (8-10)
  - The King's Edict on Behalf of the Jews (8)
  - The Institution of Purim (9)
  - The Promotion of Mordecai (10)

