

## The Book of Esther

### General Information:

**Author:** Although the author of the Book of Esther is unknown, the evident knowledge of Persian etiquette and customs, his intense nationalism, and details of the events during the reign of Ahasuerus suggest that he was a Persian Jew living in Susa.

**Date of Composition:** The Book of Esther was most likely written during the period following the death of Ahasuerus in 464 B.C. and approximately 435 B.C..

**Date of Events:** According to 1:3 the feast of Ahasuerus (486-464 B.C.) began in the third year of his reign (483 B.C.). The events of the balance of the book took place in 473 B.C. (3:7-12), giving us a chronological span of ten years (483-473 B.C.). The story of Esther fits between chapters six and seven of Ezra, between the first return led by Zerubbabel (538 B.C.) and the second led by Ezra (457 B.C.).

**Purpose:** To demonstrate God's providential care of His people in exile (Dr. Richard Belcher).

**Theme:** God fulfills his covenant promises through the *hidden* working of His providence in historical events and human actions (Dr. Richard Belcher).

**Christ in Esther:** Esther's willingness to sacrifice her own life for her people and her position as their advocate clearly point forward to the work of Christ.