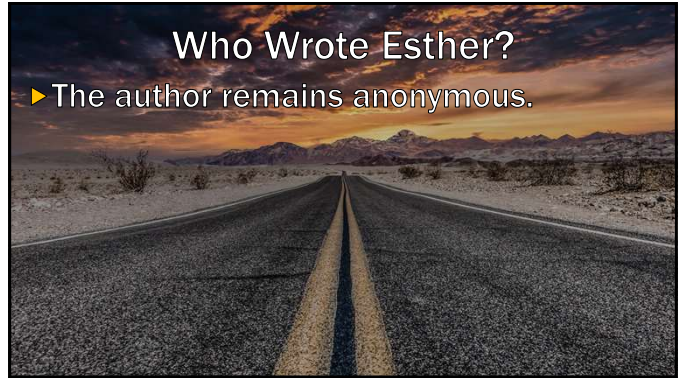
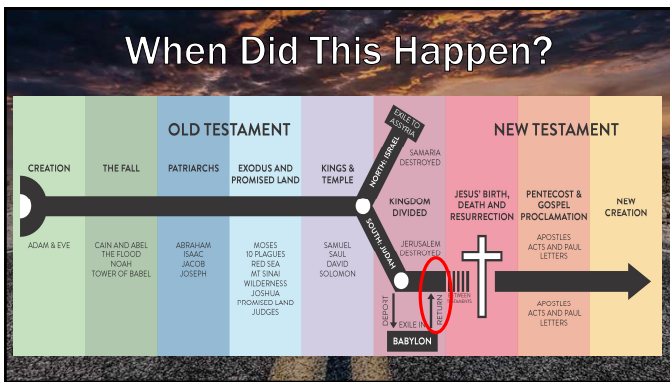


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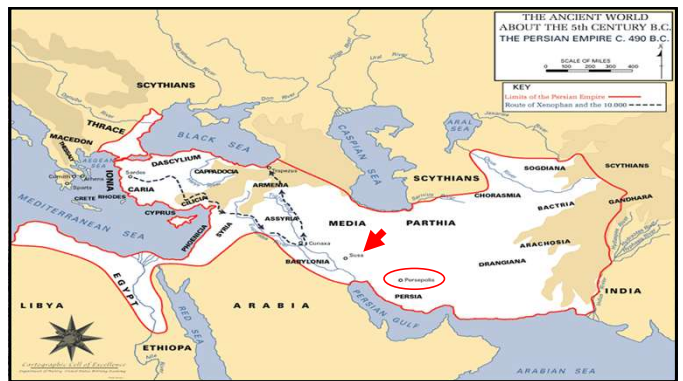


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Persian Ruler	Dates of Rule	Reference
Cyrus	539-530 B.C.	Ezra 1
Cambyses	530-522 B.C.	
Darius I	522-486 B.C.	Ezra 4-6; Neh. 12:22
Xerxes I	486-465 B.C.	Ezra 4:16, Esther
Artaxerxes I	464-423 B.C.	Ezra 4:7-23; 7; 8:1; Neh. 2:1-8

+/- 50 years (indicated by a red arrow pointing to the transition between Xerxes I and Artaxerxes I)

5



6

VIDEO HERE

7



8

Main Characters

- ▶ Xerxes (Ahasuerus)
- ▶ Queen Vashti
- ▶ Haman
- ▶ Mordecai
- ▶ Esther

9

A Drive through Esther

- ▶ The Feasts of Xerxes (1:1-2:18)
 - A. Vashti Deposed (1)
 - B. Esther Made Queen (2:1-18)

10

A Drive through Esther

- ▶ The Feasts of Esther (2:19-7:10)
 - A. Mordecai Uncovers a Plot (2:19-23)
 - B. Haman's Plot (3)
 - C. Mordecai persuades Esther to Help (4)
 - D. Esther's First Banquet (5:1-8)
 - E. A Sleepless Night (5:9-6:14)
 - F. Esther's Second Banquet (7)

11

A Drive through Esther

- ▶ The Feast of Purim (8-10)
 - A. The King's Edict on Behalf of the Jews (8)
 - B. The Institution of Purim (9)
 - C. The Promotion of Mordecai (10)

12



Purposes

- Explain and justify the feast of Purim

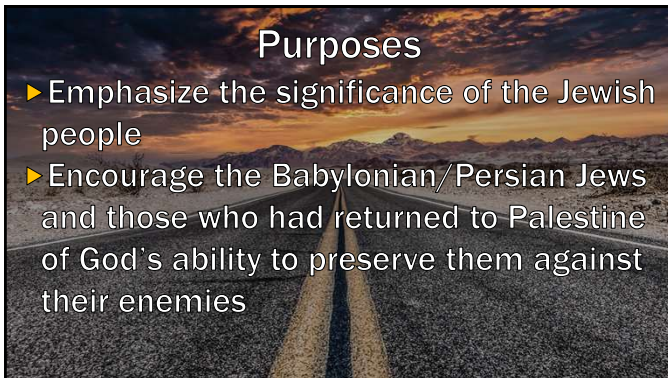
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Agricultural Cycle of the Levant/Palestine

SOLAR MONTHS	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT
HEBREW/LEVITIC MONTHS	TISHRI	MARCH/ESHVAN	CHISLEV	TEBETH	SHEBAT	ADAR	NISAN	IYYAR	SIVAN	TAMMUZ	AB	ELUL	
FEASTS AND FESTIVALS	TRUMPETS DAY OF ATONEMENT TABERNACLES		DEDICATION			PURIM		PASSOVER UNLEAVENED BREAD		PENTECOST & FIRSTFRUITS			
SEASON	RAINY SEASON								DRY SEASON				
RAINFALL	EARLY RAINS		WINTER RAINS			LATE RAINS		DROUGHT					
AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES	PLOW		PLANT			HARVEST							
HARVEST							BARLEY	WHEAT	FIRST FIGS	GRAPES	DATES, SUMMER FIGS		

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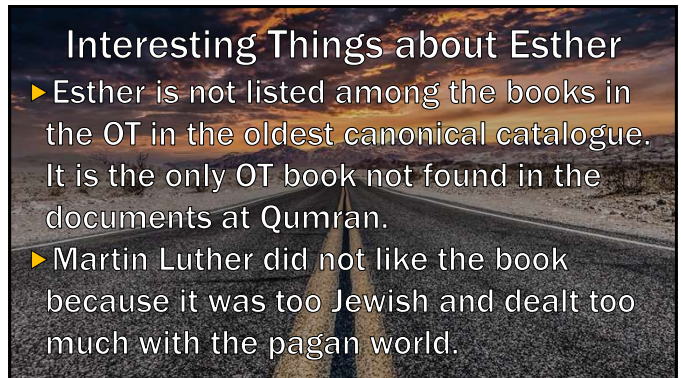
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Purposes

- Emphasize the significance of the Jewish people
- Encourage the Babylonian/Persian Jews and those who had returned to Palestine of God's ability to preserve them against their enemies

15



Interesting Things about Esther

- Esther is not listed among the books in the OT in the oldest canonical catalogue. It is the only OT book not found in the documents at Qumran.
- Martin Luther did not like the book because it was too Jewish and dealt too much with the pagan world.

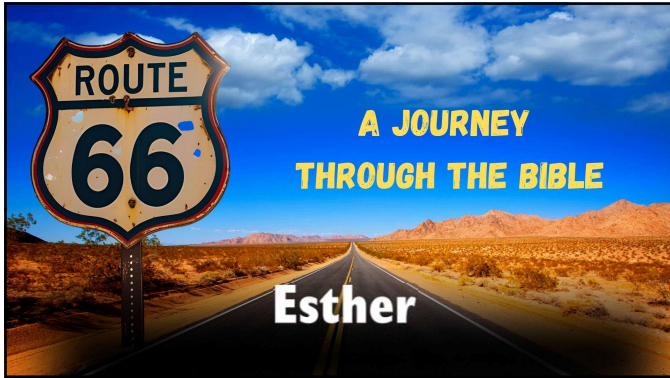
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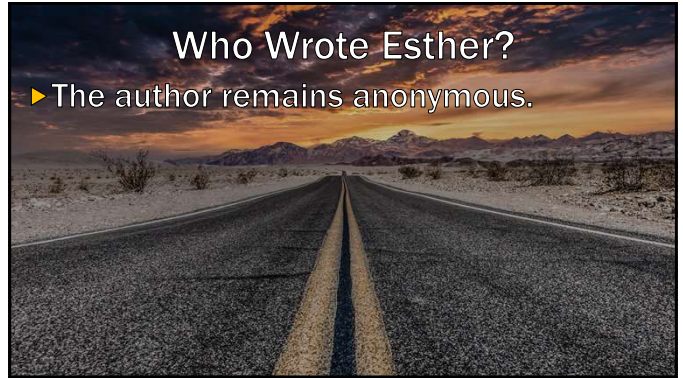
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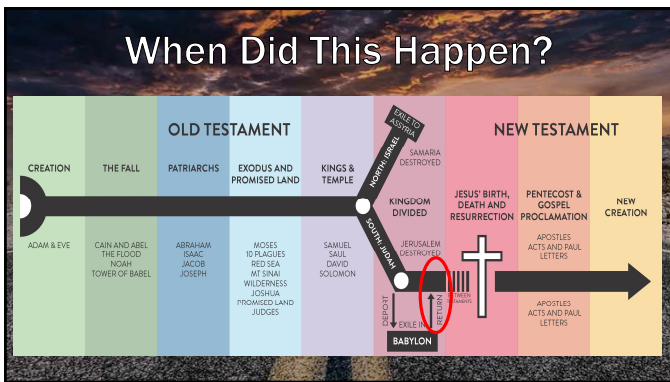
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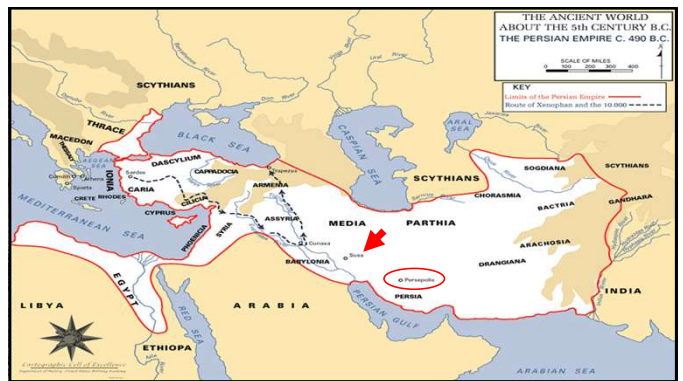


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+/- 50 years

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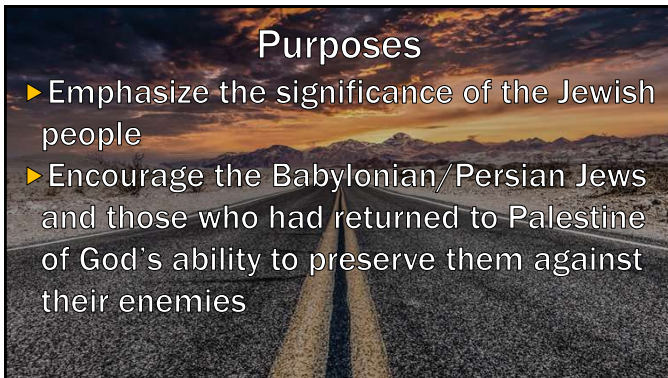
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