

PURIM: **WHEN** **GOD ACTS** **BEHIND-THE-SCENES**

OLIVIER MELNICK
CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES





SUSIANA
Susa (Shushan)

Tyre
Jerusalem
Gaza
Pelusium
Petra

THRACE
MACEDONIA

GREECE
Athens
Sparta

LYDIA
Sardis

MOSCHI
Pteria
Melitene

ARMENIA
Arbela

MEDIA
Behistun

BABYLONIA
Babylon
Nippur

MARGUS
Margiana

BACTRIA
Bactra

GANDARA
Taxila

PARTHIA
Aria

CARMANIA
Persepolis

GEDROSIA (MAKA)
Pura

HINDUSH (INDIA)
Pattala

EGYPT
Thebes

ARABIA
Dedan

PERSIS
Pasargadae

CHORASMIA
Cyropolis*

SYTHIANS (SAKA)

Black Sea

Caspian Sea

Aral Sea

Upper Sea

Lower Sea

Erythraean Sea

Libyan Desert

Nile
Red Sea
Suez Canal

Caucasus Mts.

Araxes

Euphrates

Tigris

Indus

Danube

Oxus

Cyrene

Memphis

Tema

Gerrha

Pattala

Byzantium

Sinope

Trapezus

Asshur

Opis

Yazd

Margiana

Capen (Kabul)

Damghan

Miletus

Xanthus

Hamath

Damascus

Dumah

Pasargadae

Pura

Pattala

Apollonia

Sinope

Trapezus

Asshur

Opis

Yazd

Margiana

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Damascus

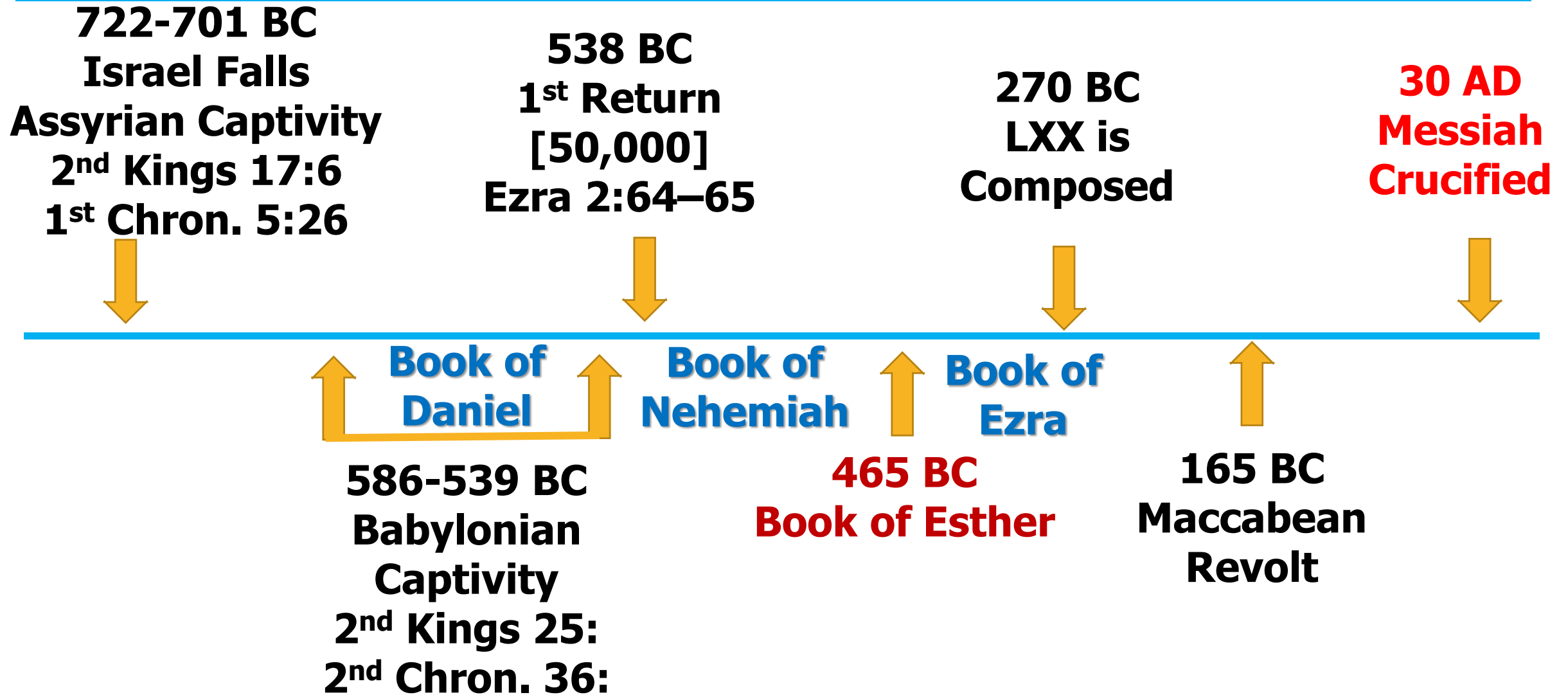
Dumah

Pasargadae

Pura

Pattala

Timeline of Esther & Her Times & Some Other Historical Milestones



PURIM: WHEN GOD ACTS BEHIND-THE-SCENES

- Purim is the plural of *pur* meaning “lot” in Hebrew. This is based on Esther 9:24,

*For Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the adversary of all the Jews, had schemed against the Jews to destroy them and had cast **Pur**, that is the **lot**, to disturb them and destroy them.*

PURIM: WHEN GOD ACTS BEHIND-THE-SCENES

- Purim is a non-Levitical festival. The Levitical feasts of the Lord were instituted by God and originally given to the Jewish people as a memorial to celebrate and worship God on a yearly basis. (Leviticus 23).
- Purim is based on the events that took place in the book of Esther.
- Also mentioned in 2 Macc. 15:36

PURIM: WHEN GOD ACTS BEHIND-THE-SCENES

- The book of Esther wasn't found as part of the dead sea scrolls.
- The book of Esther, like Ruth, is not quoted in the New Testament.
- Many scholars originally debated its authenticity.

PURIM: WHEN GOD ACTS BEHIND-THE-SCENES

- It does not mention:
 - Any name of God
 - The Temple
 - The Law of Moses,
 - The sacrificial system
 - Jerusalem
 - Prayer

PURIM: WHEN GOD ACTS BEHIND-THE-SCENES

“Esther is the only book in the Bible not to mention the name of God. But that is not to say that God was absent. His presence permeates much of the story, as though He were behind the scenes coordinating “coincidences” and circumstances to make His will happen.” (Chuck Swindoll)

PURIM: WHEN GOD ACTS BEHIND-THE-SCENES

- The book of Esther was almost not included in the biblical canon.
- It was possibly included in the canon at the council of Jamnia (Yavneh) late 1st century.
- It was secured in A.D. 120 as the Christian Church accepted it.

PURIM: WHEN GOD ACTS BEHIND-THE-SCENES

- The book of Esther is a powerful illustration of the principle of Genesis 12:3,

And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

PURIM: THE BIBLICAL/HISTORICAL SETTING

- The story of Esther takes place in Shushan, Persia (north of the Persian Gulf)
- Authorship is unknown.
- Date: ca 465 B.C.
- Takes place during the reign of king Xerxes (Ahasuerus in Hebrew)

PURIM: THE BIBLICAL/HISTORICAL SETTING

- CHAPTER 1: **THE BANQUET**
- CHAPTER 2: **THE CONTEST**
- CHAPTER 3: **THE PROMOTION & PLOT**
- CHAPTER 4: **THE INTERCESSION**
- CHAPTER 5: **THE SECOND BANQUET**

PURIM: THE BIBLICAL/HISTORICAL SETTING

- CHAPTER 6: **THE DEFEAT**
- CHAPTER 7: **THE VERDICT**
- CHAPTER 8: **THE PROMOTION**
- CHAPTER 9: **THE DESTRUCTION**
- CHAPTER 10: **THE EXALTATION**

PURIM: HAMAN'S LEGACY

Haman's legacy of hatred
paves the way for another
genocide.

PURIM: HAMAN'S LEGACY

- **One man's jealousy led to uncontrolled hatred**

Esther 3:5

When Haman saw that Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage to him, Haman was filled with rage.

PURIM: HAMAN'S LEGACY

- **Targeted hatred became global hatred**

Esther 3:6

*But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him who the people of Mordecai were; therefore, Haman sought to **destroy all the Jews**, the people of Mordecai, who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.*

PURIM: HAMAN'S LEGACY

- **Targeted hatred became global hatred**

Esther 3:13

*Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces to destroy, to **kill and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, women and children**, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to seize their possessions as plunder.*

PURIM: HAMAN'S LEGACY

- **Hatred was caused by non-conformity**

Esther 3:8

*Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; **their laws are different from those of all other people** and they do not observe the king's laws, so it is not in the king's interest to let them remain.*

PURIM: HAMAN'S LEGACY

- **Attempt at destruction was structured and organized**

Esther 3:9-11

*“If it is pleasing to the king, **let it be decreed that they be destroyed**, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who carry on the king’s business, to put into the king’s treasuries.” Then the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. The king said to Haman, “The silver is yours, and the people also, to do with them as you please.”*

PURIM: HAMAN'S LEGACY

- **Attempt at destruction was structured and organized**
Esther 3:12

Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and it was written just as Haman commanded to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province and to the princes of each people, each province according to its script, each people according to its language, being written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring.

PURIM: HAMAN'S LEGACY

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PURIM: HAMAN'S LEGACY

- **Important funding came from the perpetrator**

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PURIM: HAMAN'S LEGACY

- **One man's jealousy led to uncontrolled hatred.**
- **Targeted hatred became global hatred.**
- **Hatred was caused by non-conformity.**
- **Attempt at destruction was structured and organized.**
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PURIM: HITLER'S POLICIES

- **One man's jealousy led to uncontrolled hatred.**
- **Targeted hatred became global hatred.**
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PURIM: HITLER'S POLICIES

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So, there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there anything of which one might say, "See this, it is new"? Already it has existed for ages Which were before us.

PURIMFEST 1946

At the Nuremberg trials in 1946, Julius Streicher, publisher of the rabidly antisemitic newspaper “Der Stürmer” was found guilty of war crimes.

**Awaiting his hanging on the gallows, seconds before his execution, he yelled out
“PURIM FEST 1946!”**



PURIM TODAY!

- **A joyous feast.**
- **A reason to wear costumes.**
- **A celebration of survival.**
- **A table with special foods.**
- **A time to bless the poor.**
- **The reading of the Megillat Esther**

PURIM TODAY!: COSTUMES



PURIM TODAY!: COSTUMES



PURIM TODAY!: SPECIAL FOODS

Hamantash or
Hamantashen:
“Haman’s pockets”
or “Haman’s Ears”



PURIM TODAY!: SPECIAL ITEMS



PURIM TODAY!: SPECIAL READING



PURIM:

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME TODAY?!



PURIM: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Psalm 135: 5-7

For I know that the Lord is great And that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps. He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. Who makes lightnings for the rain, Who brings

PURIM: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Psalm 86:15

But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,

Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen

PURIM: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? **GOD'S PROTECTION**

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.”

Isaiah 41:10

Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen

PURIM: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? **THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Esther 4:14 *For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"*

PURIM: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? **THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Esther 4:15-16 *Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus, I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and*

PURIM: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Ezra 10:4 *Arise! For this matter is your responsibility, but we will be with you; be courageous and act.”*

PURIM



**WHEN GOD ACTS
BEHIND-THE-SCENES**