The Jewish people were in the Babylonian exile during the time of Jeramiah.

* 2Kings 25:1-17 Babylon conquered the southern kingdom.
* After Darius, King Cyrus ascends to the throne.
* King Cyrus during his rien decreed that the Jewish people should be free to return to Judah to rebuild the Temple.
* Some of the Jewish people returned but many decided to stay.
* After Cyrus’s death Achashverosh became King.

Ezra, Nehemiah and Ester all take place about the same time in history.

Ester fits in between chapters 6 and 7 of Ezra.

* The Meds and the Persian’s conquer Babylon.
* Achashverosh ruled over 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia.
  + akh-ash-vay-rosh' – Possibly Artaxerxes the First
  + 483 – 473 BC
* Achashverosh give a lavish banquet for his officials and nobles.
* The King calls for his wife Vashti to show her beauty.
* She refuses to come, Vashti is never allow to be admitted into the King’s presence again.
* King Achashverosh servants attending him suggest that a search should be made for a new wife for the King.
* A great pageant begins for the search for the King’s next queen.
* The king liked Ester; none of the other virgins obtained such favor and approval from him.
  + Ester hides her identity that she is Jewish.
* Mordecai her cousin holds a position in the Persian kingdom, sitting at the King’s Gate.
* Haman plots to kill the Jews.
  + Mordekhai would neither kneel nor bow down to him.
  + Because Mordecai would not bow down, Haman plots to kill all the Jewish people.
* While sitting at The Gates, Mordekhai learns of a plot to assassinate King Achashverosh.
  + Nothing is done to honor Mordekhai for saving the Kings life.
* Haman is promoted over all his fellow officers,
  + He tells the King, there are people whose laws are different from those of every other people; moreover, they don't observe the king's laws. It doesn't befit the king to tolerate them.
  + We should destroy them and he comes up with a plan.

God’s name is never mentioned in the Book of Ester.

* God is hidden in this story.
* Do we trust God when we don’t see him active in our lives.
  + **Deu 31:18** But I will be hiding my face from them because of all the evil they will have done in turning to other gods.
    - אסתירH5641Deu 31:18
    - אסתרH635 Ester 2:7
* God had hidden himself, His face, because the people of God had disobeyed and were in Exile.
* Even though it may seem that God is hidden, He is always working in the background to bring redemption to His people.

The Book of Ester starts with the feast of Achashverosh and end with the Feast of Ester/Purim.

**Ester:** an orphan girl raised by her uncle/cousin Mordecai.

* Eventually she would be chosen by Achashverosh to be queen.
* Her Hebrew name is Hadassah, “Myrtle”,
* Her Persian name Ester was derived from the Persian word for “Star” stara.

**Mordecai:** The defender of righteousness and faithfulness.

* He was the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish,
* A Benjamite who lived in the Persian capital city of Susa.
* There he raised Hadassa after both her parent’s died.

**Achashverosh:** Persian king around the 486 to 464 BC timeframe.

* Artaxerxes – Xerxes

Haman: the son of Hammedatha the Agagite who manipulated his way to the top.

* Becoming second in command.

Why does Haman want to wipe out the Jewish people because Mordecai doesn’t want to bow down to Haman.

**The Lord Rejects Saul**

**1Sameul 15:1-3**  Sh'mu'el said to Sha'ul, "Adonai sent me to anoint you king **2** Here is what Adonai-Tzva'ot says: 'I remember what `Amalek did to Isra'el, how they fought against Isra'el when they were coming up from Egypt. **3** Now go and attack `Amalek, and completely destroy everything they have. Don't spare them, but kill men and women, children and babies, cows and sheep, camels and donkeys.' "

1Samuel 15:7-9 Saul spears the life of Agag the king of Amalek.

God takes the Kingship away for Saul

* 1Samuel 15:22 “**Surely obeying is better than sacrifice**” (obedience is better than sacrifice)

1 Samuel 15:32-35 Samuel puts Agag to death.

* Exodus 17:8-16 … Amalek came and fought with Isra'el …

Saul, a Benjamite was instructed to not spare any of Amalek. Saul spares the life of the king.

* Saul allowed an Amalekite to live …
* Now in the story of Ester there is a hater of the Jewish people alive wanting to destroy the Jewish people.
* Haman may know the command to the Jewish people to wipeout Amalek in every generation.

Ester and Mordecai, Benjamite’s are now faced with the challenge of making right what their forefather, Saul did not do.

* God was giving the descendants of Saul a second chance to correct what he had not done correctly.
* To make a “tikkun” (amending/fixing)
  + Our Father is a God of second chances.

Ester finds herself in a situation where her life is on the line.

* Ester 4:16  "Go, assemble all the Jews to be found in Shushan, and have them fast for me, neither eating nor drinking for three days, night and day; also I and the girls attending me will fast the same way. Then I will go in to the king, which is against the law; and **if I perish**, **I perish**."
* Will Ester be obedient?
* Or will she be disobedient, like her forefather Saul?
  + Which leads to Saul losing his throne.
* Ester was obedient and goes before the king.
* And saves the Jewish people in the Persian Kingdom.
* Also, where the throne was lost by Saul, and the tribe of Benjamin …
* And given to the tribe of Judah, King David and his descendants.
* Now we have a descendant of King Saul, Ester, sitting on a throne. (Gentile)
  + Ruling both Jew and Gentile.
  + Bring salvation to the Jewish people and the kingdom.
    - Redemption.
* The Father gives us second chances to do the right thing.
  + Even correction the things our forefathers got wrong.

Purim is not one of the Leviticus 23 appointed times.

* Shabbat, Passover, Shavuot, Feast of Trumpets.
* Purim is considered a minor Holiday.
  + Ester 9:20-28 (Est 9:28 and that these days would be remembered and observed throughout every generation,)

**Haman (Boo)**

Pro 10:7  The memory of the righteous will be for a blessing, but **the reputation of the wicked will rot.**

**Mordecai (Yay)**

Pro 10:7  **The memory of the righteous will be for a blessing**, but the reputation of the wicked will rot.

**Ester (Hadassah)** (Oooh)

Pro. 31:10 א Who can find a capable wife? Her value is far beyond that of pearls.

Pro 31:11  ב Her husband trusts her from his heart, and she will prove a great asset to him.

Pro 31:12  ג She works to bring him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

Purim – Lots

* Est 9:24-26  because Haman the son of Hamdata the Agagi, the enemy of the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them and had thrown pur (that is, "**cast lots**") to crush and destroy them; …
  + Connections to Yom Kippur,

**Est 1:1**  These events took place in the time of Achashverosh, the Achashverosh who ruled over **127** provinces from India to Ethiopia.

* **Gen 23:1**  Sarah lived to be **127** years old; these were the years of Sarah's life.
  + Through Sarah The Redeemer would come.