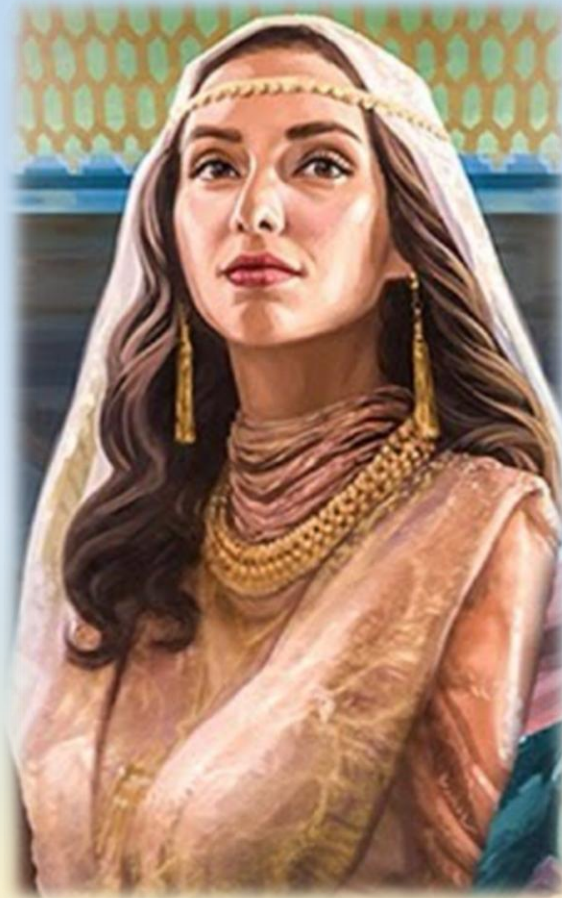


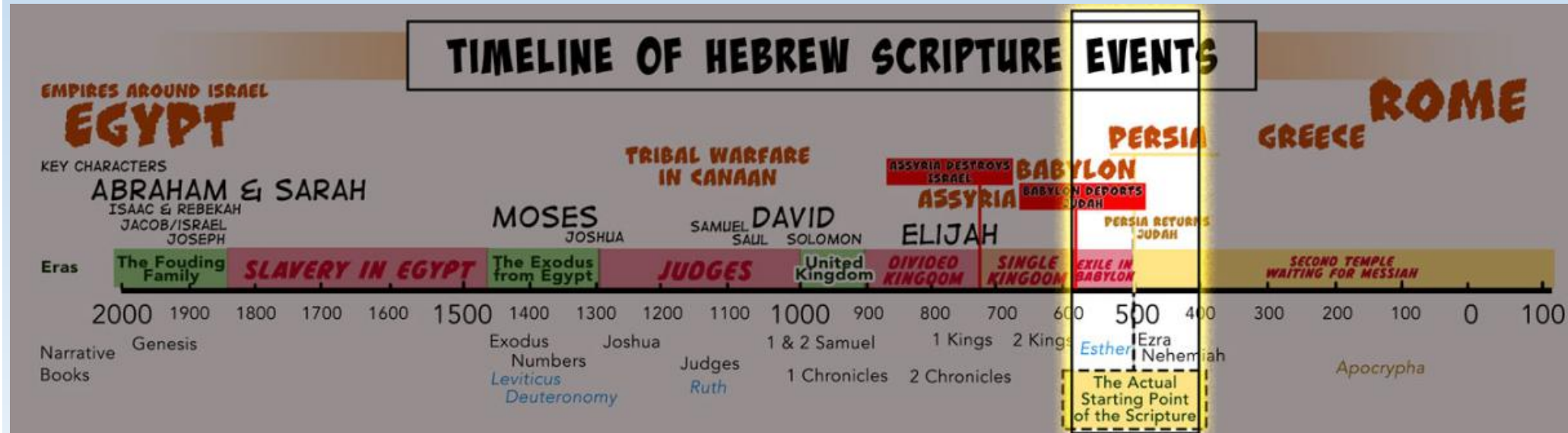
The Book Of Esther

February 2, 2026



Background

Esther takes place around 483–473 BC



- **Original Name:** Born **Hadassah**, meaning "myrtle" in Hebrew. She took the name Esther (Persian for "star") to conceal her Jewish identity.
- **Family:** An orphan of the tribe of Benjamin, she was raised by her cousin **Mordecai** in Susa, the capital of the Persian Empire.
- **Role:** She was selected to replace Queen Vashti after a kingdom-wide search by King Ahasuerus (Xerxes).

Where are we?

Esther takes place in Susa, the capital of the Persian Empire.

Jerusalem is hundreds of miles to the west. The Jewish people were taken into exile and eventually brought to Susa.



Let's watch a quick video

[God's Story: Esther](#)



What happened?

- Esther is chosen as the new queen of Persia, but she has concealed her identity as a Jew.
- Her cousin Mordecai uncovers a plot to kill King Ahasuerus (Xerxes).



Esther



Mordecai



Xerxes



Haman

- Mordecai refuses to bow down Haman, a ruler who King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) favored.
- Haman plots to destroy the Jews because he know Mordecai is Jewish.

Words of Wisdom

Esther Chapter 4:

¹⁰ Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, ¹¹ “All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives.....

Esther was scared for her life, and had good reason to be.

Mordecai’s words not only speak to Esther, but they reach out to us, today.

.....¹² When Esther’s words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position **for such a time as this?**”

Remember this:

- 1) God chose Esther. Even when she didn't understand God's plans and even though she was scared, she obeyed.
- 2) The words of the Bible are living and active. As relevant today as they were thousands of years ago.

Final Question: Have you ever been really worried about something?

What happened?

Did you or your family have to trust each other, other people, or God to get through it?