

ESTHER

Some scholars have referred to the Book of Esther as a historical novel. The book bears the name of the Central Character.

Not once does the name of God appear in this book. Its significance in Jewish history stems from the fact that it has become a patriotic symbol to a persecuted people of the ultimate triumph of truth and Justice. Esther's courage is the dominating factor in the salvation of her people.

Like many outstanding historical characters, Esther was of humble origin, an orphan Jewess who rises to a position of Queen of Persia.

Her name appears fifty-five times in this short Bible Book.

Early in her reign she dedicated herself not to the pleasures, comforts and luxuries of the palace, but to the interests and welfare of her people. From her infancy, devout Jewess that she was worshipped the one, true God.

Soon Esther was to learn that her husband's most esteemed advisor hated the Jewish people. He is described by modern writers as a typical Hitler, evil in his intent on destroying a God-fearing people. Opposed to Haman, stood the courageous Esther, ready to defend her people with her own life.

Her triumphant place in the hearts of her people became assured because she accepted her own Divine Destiny.

As Esther prepares to go before the King she makes a courageous assertion. "SO I WILL GO IN UNTO THE KING, WHICH IS NOT ACCORDING TO THE LAW! AND IF I PERISH, I PERISH." (Esther 4:16).

Esther lives "TODAY" In the hearts of her people as the woman who was the Saviour of the Jews who were refugees in Persia about twenty-four centuries ago. She has become one of their greatest heroines because she served with prudence, Intelligence, fearlessness and deep insight.