

Purim 2005
3/14/2005 6:08 AM

Historical Setting

Date BC	Ref	Jewish leaders	Gentile kings	Notes
606-605	Dan 1:1	Jehoiakim	Nebuchanezzar	Daniel
597	2 Kin 24:10-16	Jehoiachin		Jehoiachin, Ezekiel
587	2 Kin 25:8	Zedekiah		Zedekiah
538	Ezr 1:1	Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel	Cyrus	Ends the 70 years
516	Ezr 6:15	Zerubbabel	Darius I	Completion of the temple
479	Est 2:16		Xerxes (= Ahasuerus)	Esther becomes queen
474	Est 3:7			Haman casts lots to destroy the Jews
473	Est 3:13			Date appointed to destroy the Jews
458	Ezr 7:7-8		Artaxerxes	Return of Ezra
445	Neh 2:1			Return of Nehemiah

Overall Chiasmic Structure

1:1-22, the King's great feasts (127 provinces) • Vashti deposed by letters 2:1-18, Esther elevated as queen	9:19-32, The Jews' great feasts (127 provinces) • Feast perpetuated by letters 10:1-3, Mordecai elevated "next unto King Ahasuerus"
2:19-23, Traitors discovered and destroyed	9:1-18, Traitors destroyed; sons of Haman hanged
3:1-4, Haman elevated over Mordecai 3:5-14, Haman persuades the king to issue a decree of destruction 3:15, Haman and the King feast 3:15, City of Shushan perplexed	8:1-2, 15 Mordecai elevated to Haman's place 8:3-14, Esther persuades the king to issue a decree of self-defense 8:15, City of Shushan rejoiced 8:16-17, Jews feast
4, Mordecai prophetically warns Esther 5:1-8, Esther's first banquet 5:9-14, Haman's Gallows prepared for Mordecai	6:13, Zeresh prophetically warns Haman 7:1-8, Esther's second banquet 7:9-10, Haman's Gallows used for Haman
6:1-12, Ahasuerus' sleepless night; Haman forced to honor Mordecai	