

INTRODUCTION TO ESTHER
(Esther 1:1-2)

- I. *Esther's* Place in SCRIPTURE
 - A. Its acceptance has been CHALLENGED
 - 1. It NEVER MENTIONS God
 - 2. It is NEVER QUOTED in the NT
 - 3. It is NOT FOUND AMONG the “Dead Sea Scrolls”
 - B. There are ANSWERS to the objections
 - 1. God is PRESENT in the book, but in the BACKGROUND
 - 2. Esther is NOT the ONLY OT book not quoted in the NT
 - 3. The “Dead Sea Scrolls” collection is not DEFINITIVE
 - C. Its acceptance has been DEFENDED
 - 1. ANCIENT practice included it
 - 2. Early CHURCH era included it

- II. *Esther's* WRITING
 - A. Author is UNIDENTIFIED
 - B. Author's writing style is consistent with the PERSIAN era
 - C. The book's STRUCTURE is called *chiasmic*

D. The book's genre is HISTORICAL narrative

III. *Esther's* PURPOSE

A. Historical

1. Provides the only EXPLANATION for the Feast of Purim
2. Provides a rare glimpse of life for the Jews under PERSIAN rule

B. Spiritual

1. Provides an object lesson in HUMAN CARNALITY
2. Provides an object lesson in DIVINE PROVIDENCE
3. Provides an object lesson in PRACTICAL FAITH