

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

By: M. CHAPMAN

Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Esther 4:14.

INTRODUCTION

The Overview

REPETITION OF HISTORY

“Never are we absent from the mind of God. God is our joy and our salvation. **Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours**, so that their prophesying is in force for us. ‘Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come’ (**1 Corinthians 10:11**). ‘Not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into’ (**1 Peter 1:12**)...

“Enoch, the seventh from Adam, was ever prophesying the coming of the Lord. This great event had been revealed to him in vision. Abel, though dead, is ever speaking of the blood of Christ which alone can make our offerings and gifts perfect. The Bible has accumulated and bound up together its treasures for this last generation. **All the great events and solemn transactions of Old Testament history have been, and are, repeating themselves in the church in these last days.** There is Moses still speaking, teaching self-renunciation by wishing himself blotted from the Book of Life for his fellow men, that they might be saved. David is leading the intercession of the church for the salvation of souls to the ends of the earth. The prophets are still testifying of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow. There the whole accumulated truths are presented in force to us that we may profit by their teachings. We are under the influence of the whole. What manner of persons ought we to be to whom all this rich light of inheritance has been given. Concentrating all the influence of the past with new and increased light of the present, accrued power is given to all who will follow the light. Their faith will increase, and be brought into exercise at the present time, awakening an energy and an intensely increased earnestness, and through dependence upon God for His power to replenish the world and send the light of the Sun of Righteousness to the ends of the earth.” *Selected Messages*, book 3, 338, 339.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 & 3:15; Isaiah 44:6, 7 & 46:9, 10

Isaiah 28:9–13

Amos 3:7

STRUCTURE OF THE LINES

Revelation 14:6–12 & 18:1–4; Daniel 11:40–45; Matthew 25:1–13; Revelation 10:4 (SDA Bible Commentary, volume 7, 971); Ezra 7:9

EXAMPLES OF THE LINES

1. The beginning and end of the 70 years captivity
2. The beginning and end of 2300
3. The beginning and end of 2520 against Judah

HISTORICAL/PROPHETICAL TIME FRAME OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER

1. Cyrus (536 BC; reigned 7 years (*Review and Herald*, December 5, 1907))
2. Cambyses (530 BC; reigned 7.5 years (*Prophets and Kings*, 571))
3. False Smerdis (522 BC; reigned 8 months)
4. Darius (522 BC; reigned 37 years)
5. **Xerxes (485 BC; reigned 21 years)**
6. Artabanus (465 BC; reigned 8 months)
7. Artaxerxes (465 BC; reigned 42 years)

DANIEL 11:2

Third Year

483 BC – Esther chapter 1

Sixth Year

July 480 BC – Xerxes makes extensive preparations to invade mainland Greece by building depots, canals and a boat bridge across the Hellespont.

August 480 BC – Battle of Thermopylae. 300 Spartans under King Leonidas and other Greek allies hold back the Persians led by Xerxes I for three days but are defeated.

August 480 BC – The indecisive battle of Artemision between the Greek and Persian fleets of Xerxes I. The Greeks withdraw to Salamis.

September 480 BC – Battle of Salamis where the Greek naval fleet led by Themistocles defeats the invading armada of Xerxes I of Persia.

Seventh Year

479 BC – Xerxes' Persian forces are defeated by Greek forces at Plataea effectively ending Persia's imperial ambitions in Greece.

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE BOOK OF ESTHER

The Third Year of King Ahasuerus – Esther 1:3

Main Points: Battle Plans, Divorce

The Sixth & Seventh Years – Esther 2:12, 16

Main Point: Marriage

The Eleventh & Twelfth Years – Esther 3:5–7

Main Point: Unrighteous Decree

ESTHER 1

The Divorce

MATTHEW 25:1-13 & EZRA 7:9

“In the parable of the ten virgins, Matthew 25, **the experience of Adventists** is illustrated by the incidents of an Eastern marriage.” *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 4, 242.

“The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25 also **illustrates the experience of the Adventist people.**” *The Great Controversy*, 393.

“When the third angel's message is preached as it should be, power attends its proclamation, and it becomes an abiding influence. It must be attended with divine power, or it will accomplish nothing. I am often referred to the parable of the ten virgins, five of whom were wise, and five foolish. **This parable has been and will be fulfilled to the very letter**, for it has a special application to this time, and, like the third angel's message, has been fulfilled and will continue to be present truth till the close of time.” *The Review and Herald*, August 19, 1890.

Matthew 25: Tarrying Time — Midnight Cry — Shut Door

Ezra 7: 1st Day 1st Month — 1st Day 5th Month — (10th Day 7th Month)

Millerite History: 4/19/1844 — 8/15/1844 — 10/22/1844

Our History: 9/11/2001 — Midnight Cry — Sunday Law

2 CHRONICLES 29:17 & ESTHER 1:4, 5

1st Day 1st Month — **Temple**— 8th Day 1st Month — **Court**— 16th Day 1st Month

180 day feast begins — **Palace**— 7 day feast begins — **Court**— Divorce

AHASUERUS

“Lion king” according to *Smith's Bible Dictionary*. Revelation 5:5

127 PROVINCES

Genesis 23:1

SHUSHAN THE PALACE

Nehemiah 1:1; Daniel 8:2

180 DAYS

Luke 1:24, 26

7 DAYS

Esther 1:5, 9

DIVERSE VESSELS OF GOLD

2 Titus 2:20, 21; John 2:6

ROYAL WINE

Matthew 9:17; Revelation 14:8 & 18:3

NONE DID COMPEL

"God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan's constant resort--to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce--is compulsion by cruelty. Through fear or force he endeavors to rule the conscience and to secure homage to himself. To accomplish this, he works through both religious and secular authorities, moving them to the enforcement of human laws in defiance of the law of God." *The Great Controversy*, 591.

"In the experience of God's people, there are always times of test and trial; and God does not design that men, women, or youth shall be shielded from the liabilities which test the character. Satan will reveal his workings, and will supply every soul he tempts with his evil-surmising, his evil-speaking, and accusing of the brethren. From this condition of things the Lord can not possibly shield those who place themselves on the enemy's side; **for God does not compel the human mind.** He gives his bright beams of light to guide all who will walk in the rays shining from him. But if men disregard the path lighted by the heavenly beams, and choose the way suited to their own natural hearts, they will stumble on in darkness, not knowing at what they stumble. *Youth Instructor*, November 10, 1898.

7 CHAMBERLAINS

Revelation 4:5; Revelation 1:20; Revelation 5:6; Zechariah 4:10

THE CALL

"The parable of the wedding garment opens before us a **lesson of the highest consequence.** By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity; the wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding.

"In this parable, as in that of the great supper, are illustrated the gospel invitation, its rejection by the Jewish people, and the call of mercy to the Gentiles. But on the part of those who reject the invitation, this parable brings to view a deeper insult and a more dreadful punishment. **The call to the feast is a king's invitation.** It proceeds from one

who is vested with power to command. It confers high honor. **Yet the honor is unappreciated.** The king's authority is despised. While the householder's invitation was regarded with indifference, the king's is met with insult and murder. They treated his servants with scorn, despitefully using them and slaying them. *Christ's Object Lessons*, 307.

VASHTI

"Beautiful" according to *Smith's Bible Dictionary*. Psalm 48:2; Ezekiel 16:15

KING'S WRATH

Zephaniah 1:15, 18; Matthew 22:7; Revelation 14:10

7 WISE MEN/PRINCES

Daniel 12:10; Matthew 18:10

VINDICATION OF GOD'S LAW

"The Lord has sent to our world a message of warning, even the Third Angel's Message. **All heaven is waiting to hear us vindicate God's law, declaring it to be holy, just, and good.** Where are those who will do this work? God calls upon His people to gain a deeper insight into His plans and His law. His law is the transcript of His character. It is unchangeable; for God will not alter the thing that has gone out of His lips. Christ has declared that the law is perfect; and with David we may say, 'It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void thy law.'" *The Review and Herald*, June 18, 1901.

ROYAL COMMANDMENT/DECREE/LETTERS

Matthew 21:42

REVERENCE

Ephesians 5:33

ESTHER 1

3rd Year of Ahasuerus: 1st Decree

9/11

MC

SL

<p>Palace: God's House; Priests ~ Est. 1:2; 2 Chron. 29:16, 17</p> <p>Shushan ~ Est. 1:2; Dan. 8:2; Neh. 1:1</p> <p>Feast ~ Est. 1:3; Rev. 10:10; Jer. 15:16; Exo. 12:11</p> <p>180 Day Feast (6 months) – Ahasuerus ~ Est. 1:4; Luke 1</p>	<p>Court; Courtyard; Levites ~ Est. 1:5; 2 Chron. 29:16, 17</p> <p>Double Feasts ~ Est. 1:5, 9</p> <p>7 Day Feast – Ahasuerus ~ Est. 1:5</p> <p>7 Day Feast – Vashii ~ Est. 1:9</p>	<p>7th Day: Called ~ Est. 1:10,11</p> <p>7 Chamberlains ~ Est. 1:10</p> <p>Vashii: Disobedient Church ~ Est. 1:12</p> <p>King's Wrath: Day of the Lord ~ Est. 1:12; Matt. 21:42, 43; 22:7; Rev. 14:10</p> <p>7 Wise Men ~ Est. 1:14</p> <p>Divorce ~ Est. 1:19; Matt. 21:42, 43</p> <p>Reverence ~ Est. 1:20 ; Eph. 5:33</p> <p>Decree ~ Est. 1:22</p> <p>Worldwide Message ~ Est. 1:22</p>
<p>PRIESTS</p> <p>180 days</p>	<p>LEVITES</p> <p>7 days</p>	

6 months

ESTHER 2

The Marriage

REMEMBERED

Isaiah 46:9; Jeremiah 6:16; Genesis 41:9; Zacharias – “Jah has remembered” (H2148)

GATHERING OF THE VIRGINS

Joel 1:14 & 2:16; Zephaniah 2:1

PURIFICATION

“**Hezekiah appealed directly to the priests to unite with him in bringing about the necessary reforms.** ‘Be not now negligent,’ he exhorted them; ‘for the Lord hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.’ **‘Sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers.’** Verses 11, 5.

“It was a time for quick action. **The priests began at once. Enlisting the cooperation of others of their number who had not been present during this conference,** they engaged heartily in the work of cleansing and sanctifying the temple. Because of the years of desecration and neglect, this was attended with many difficulties; but **the priests and the Levites labored untiringly,** and within a remarkably short time they were able to report their task completed. The temple doors had been repaired and thrown open; the sacred vessels had been assembled and put into place; and all was in readiness for the reestablishment of the sanctuary services.”
The Review & Herald, April 22, 1915.

HADASSAH

“The myrtle” (H1918); Isaiah 55:13

ESTHER

“A star” according to *Smith’s Bible Dictionary*. Daniel 12:3

HIDDEN

Luke 1:24; John 12:24

“By the casting of the grain into the soil, Christ represents **the sacrifice of Himself** for our redemption. ‘Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die,’ He says, ‘it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.’ John 12:24. So the **death of Christ will result in fruit** for the kingdom of God. In accordance with the law of the vegetable kingdom, **life will be the result of His death.**

“**And all who would bring forth fruit as workers together with Christ must first fall into the ground and die.** The life must be cast into the furrow of the world’s need. Self-love, self-interest, must perish. But the law of self-sacrifice is the law of self-preservation. **The seed buried in the ground produces fruit, and in turn this is planted.**

Thus the harvest is multiplied. The husbandman preserves his grain by casting it away. So in human life, to give is to live. The life that will be preserved is the life that is freely given in service to God and man. Those who for Christ's sake sacrifice their life in this world, will keep it unto life eternal." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 86.

"Those who till the soil have the illustration ever before them. Year by year man preserves his supply of grain by apparently throwing away the choicest part. **For a time it must be hidden under the furrow, to be watched over by the Lord.** Then appears the blade, then the ear, and then the corn in the ear. **But this development cannot take place unless the grain is buried out of sight, hidden, and to all appearance, lost.**" *The Desire of Ages*, 623.

"Thus Christ by definite instruction **prepared** his disciples for their work. **He is our Master, as he was theirs, and this instruction we are to follow.** We are to work earnestly and vigilantly to **prepare** the way for the second coming of the Lord. **There is much to be done in preparation for that solemn event.** Waiting, watching, praying, and working, -- this is what we are to do as servants of God. **Personal consecration is necessary,** and we can not have this unless heart-holiness is cultivated and cherished.

"**God requires us to be faithful in his service. Let there be no spiritual declension.** The apostle exhorts us to be 'not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.' **All are to strive to increase their capabilities,** that they may continually do better work for the Master. He has provided every facility, so that his servants can labor intelligently." *The Review & Herald*, October 2, 1900.

OBTAINED KINDNESS

Genesis 39:21; Daniel 1:9

ROYAL CROWN

Isaiah 62:3; Revelation 12:1

ESTHER'S FEAST

Parallels the time of Vashti's feast from chapter 1 and also the time of the banquet put on by Esther in chapter 5

GIFTS

Daniel 2:48 & 5:17; Acts 2:38; Matthias – "Gift of Jah" (H4993)

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.' **This prophecy points out clearly that the remnant church will acknowledge God in His law and will have the prophetic gift.** Obedience to the law

of God, and the spirit of prophecy has always distinguished the true people of God, and the test is usually given on present manifestations.

“In Jeremiah's day the people had no question about the message of Moses, Elijah, or Elisha, but they did question and put aside the message sent of God to Jeremiah until its force and power was wasted and there was no remedy but for God to carry them away into captivity. Likewise in the days of Christ the people had learned that Jeremiah's message was true, and they persuaded themselves to believe that if they had lived in the days of their fathers they would have accepted his message, but at the same time they were rejecting Christ's message, of whom all the prophets had written.

“As the third angel's message arose in the world, which is to reveal the law of God to the church in its fullness and power, the prophetic gift was also immediately restored. This gift has acted a very prominent part in the development and carrying forward of this message.” *Loma Linda Messages*, 33.

7TH YEAR OF RELEASE

Deuteronomy 15:7–11; Genesis 41:29

THE 2ND GATHERING

Ezekiel 37:16, 17

THE GATE

Genesis 19:1 & 28:17; Acts 3:2

TWO ENEMIES

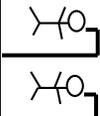
Leviticus 10:1; 1 Samuel 2:12 & 4:11; Ruth 1:5; 1 Kings 18:19; Acts 5:1–11

ESTHER 2

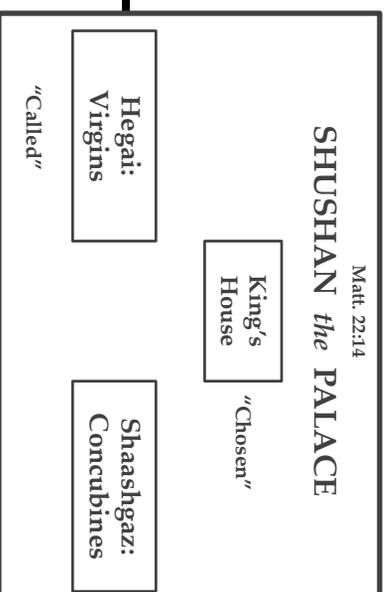
6th & 7th Years of Ahasuerus: 2nd Decree

9/11

MC

<p>Remember ~ Est. 2:1; Is. 46:9; Jer. 6:16; Gen. 41:9</p> <p>Virgins Sought ~ Est. 2:2; Matt. 25; Rev. 14:4</p> <p>Gathering ~ Est. 2:3, 8; Jer. 32:37; Eze. 37; Joe. 1:14; 2:16; Zeph. 2:1</p> <p>Purification ~ Est. 2:3, 12; 2 Chron. 29:16, 17</p> <p>Decree ~ Est. 2:2-4, 8</p> <p>"Esther" = "Star" ~ Est. 2:7</p> <p>"Esther" = "Hidden" ~ Est. 2:10, 20; Jn. 12:24; Luk. 1:24</p> <p>10M6Y ~ Est. 2:12, 16</p>	<p>10M7Y ~ Est. 2:16</p> <p>Marriage ~ Est. 2:17; Matt. 25:10</p> <p>Name Change ~ Est. 2:7, 17; Jer. 15:16; Rev. 3:12; Luk. 1:60</p> <p>Release in 7th Year ~ Est. 2:16, 18; Deut. 15:9</p> <p>Gifts ~ Est. 2:18; Acts 2:38</p> <p>2nd Gathering ~ Est. 2:19; Eze. 37:16, 17</p> <p>The Gate ~ Gen. 19:1 & 28:17; Acts 3:2</p>	<p>Bigthan & Teresh ~ Est. 2:21-23; Lev. 10:1; 1 Sam. 2:12; 4:11; Rut. 1:5; 1 Kings 18:19</p>
<p>6 months myrrh</p>	<p>6 months sweet odours</p>	

12 months



ESTHER 3-10

The Decree

CHRONOLOGY OF CHAPTERS 3-10

1. 1st day 1st month – Lots cast
2. Shortly after this Haman speaks to the king
3. 13th day 1st month – Decree written to slay Jews on the 13th day of the 12th month
4. Same day – Mordecai perceives
5. Same day – Esther sends Hatach to Mordecai
6. Same day – Hatach returns
7. Same day – Hatach is sent again to Mordecai
8. It has been 30 days prior to this point that Esther has been called by the king
9. Same day – Hatach returns to Esther
10. Same day – Esther begins a three day fast
11. 15th day 1st month – Esther goes in to see the king on the third day of her fast
12. Same day – Esther, the king, and Haman attend a banquet of wine
13. Same day – Haman builds gallows
14. That night – The king could not sleep
15. 16th day 1st month – Haman parades Mordecai about the city
16. Same day – Esther, the king, and Haman attend the second day of the banquet
17. Same day – Haman was hung upon his own gallows
18. Same day – Haman's house was given to Mordecai and Esther
19. 23rd day 3rd month – Counter decree written for Jews to defend themselves
20. 13th day 12th month – Haman's ten sons slew
21. 14th day 12th month – Haman's ten sons hung upon the gallows
22. 15th day 12th month – All the Jews rested

HAMAN

“Magnificent” according to *Smith's Bible Dictionary*. Magnificent is synonymous with “glorious.”

FOREMOST

“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. **The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.**” *The Great Controversy*, 588.

THE SUNDAY LAW DECREE

“The decree that will finally go forth against the remnant people of God will be **very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews**. Today the enemies of the true church see in the little company keeping the Sabbath commandment, a Mordecai at the gate. The reverence of God's people for His law is a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling on His Sabbath.

“Satan will arouse indignation against the minority who refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God. Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them with contempt.

“Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members will conspire against them. With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to overthrow their faith. By false representations and angry appeals, men will stir up the passions of the people. Not having a ‘Thus saith the Scriptures’ to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack. To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for **Sunday laws**. But those who fear God, cannot accept an institution that violates a precept of the Decalogue. On this battlefield will be fought the last great conflict in the controversy between truth and error. And we are not left in doubt as to the issue. **Today, as in the days of Esther and Mordecai, the Lord will vindicate His truth and His people.**” *Prophets and Kings*, 605.

“So it will be again. Seventh-day Adventists will fight the battle over the seventh day Sabbath. The authorities in the United States will rise up in their pride and power and make **laws to restrict religious liberty**, as the authorities in this country are doing. They will assume the right that is God's alone, and like Nebuchadnezzar, will think they can force the conscience, which God only can control. Even now they are making a beginning which they will continue to carry forward till they reach a boundary over which they cannot step. **God will interpose in behalf of His loyal, commandment-keeping people.**” *MS78-1897*, 1.

ESTHER 3

11th & 12th Years of Ahasuerus: The Line of Decrees

Ezra:

1D1M

1D5M ← 70 days → **10D7M**

Esther:

1D1M

13D1M ← 70 days → **23D3M** **13D12M**

Hamán's Evil Heart (his intent) = The Patriot Act
~ Est. 3:5; Rev. 17:17

Death Decree Written
~ Est. 3:12

Decree to Defend Written
~ Est. 8:8-11

Death Decree Enacted
~ Est. 3:13

Casting Lots ~ Est. 3:7

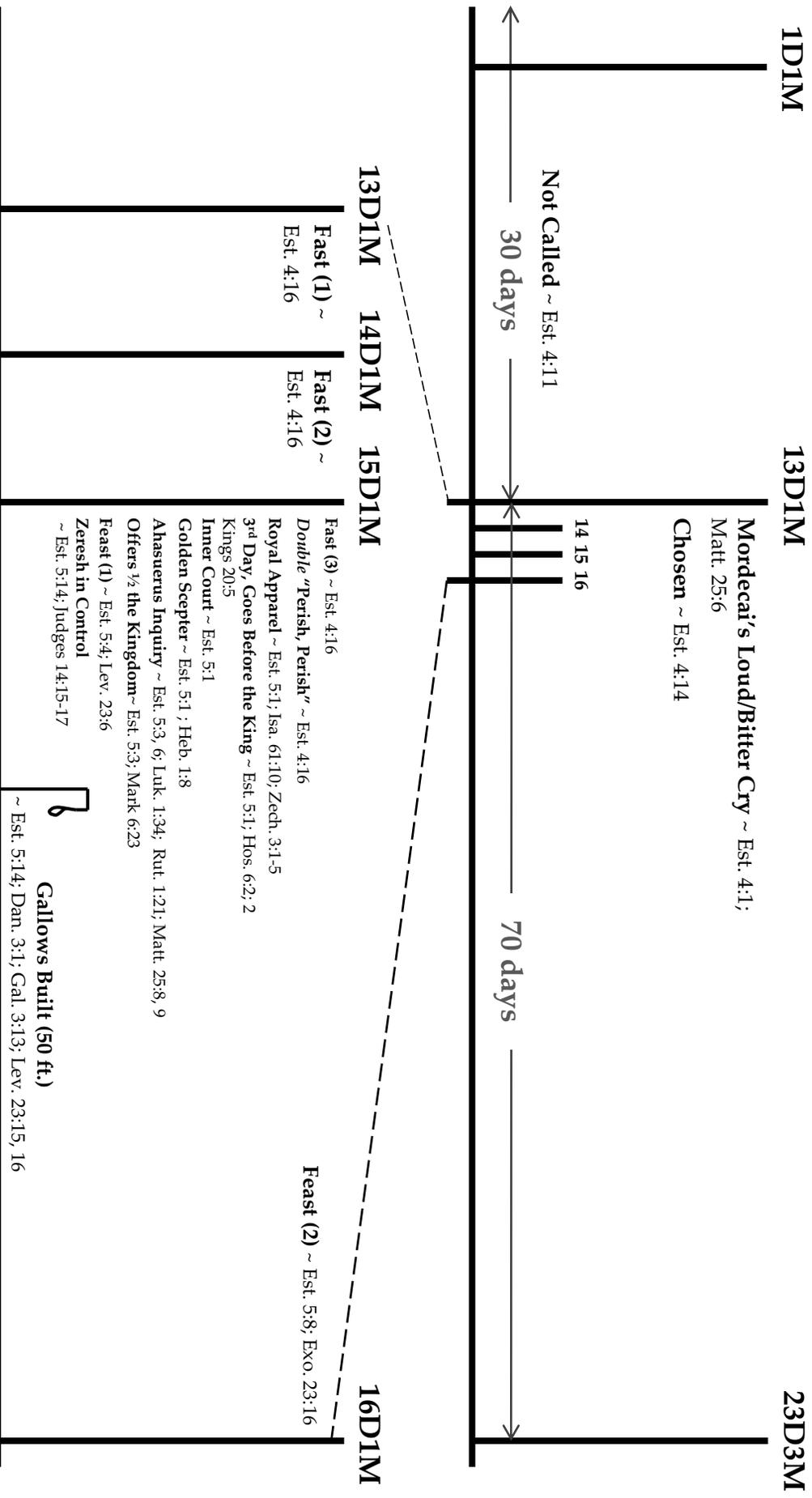
Seal ~ Est. 3:13

Seal ~ Est. 8:8

← 70 days →

ESTHER 4 & 5

Esther's Fast: The Binding Off

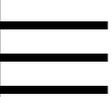


ESTHER 6, 7, 8

13D1M

Mordecai's Loud/Bitter Cry ~ Est. 4:1;
Matt. 25:6

14 15 16



23D3M

Decree to Defend Written
~ Est. 8:8-11

13D1M 14D1M 15D1M

Triumphal Entry ~ Est. 6:11; Matt. 21;
Zec. 9:9;

Evil Confederacy ~ Est. 6:12-14;
Rev. 16:13

16D1M

Fallen Upon Esther's Bed ~ Est. 7:7; Rev.
2:22; Rev. 18:1-3

Hamam's Face Covered ~ Est. 7:8; 2 Kings 25:7

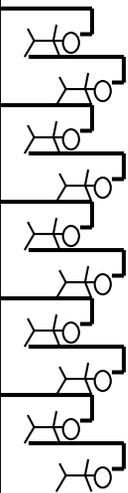
Hamam Dies ~ Est. 7:10;
Sealing ~ Est. 8:2, 8; Jer. 22:24

11th Hour Workers /Feast of Firstfruits~ Est. 8:15-17;
Exo. 23:16



ESTHER 9 & 10

Purim

13D12M	14D12M	15D12M
<p>Decree Executed ~ Est. 9:1</p> <p>Jews Gathered ~ Est. 9:2</p> <p>Mordecai waxed greater ~ Est. 9:4</p> <p>Shushan Jews ~ Est. 9:6, 10 → 500 men → Haman's 10 sons <i>die</i></p> <p>Village Jews ~ Est. 9:16 → 75,000</p> <p>Decree Extension Request ~ Est. 9:13</p>	<p>Decree Doubled (Repeated) ~ Est. 9:14</p> <p>Shushan Jews ~ Est. 9:14, 15 → 300 men → Haman's 10 sons <i>hung</i></p> <p>Village Jews ~ Est. 9:17 → Rest</p> 	<p>Double Rest</p> <p>Shushan Jews ~ Est. 9:18 → Rest</p> <p>Village Jews ~ Est. 9:21, 22 → Rest</p>
<p>6th Kingdom Dies: <i>False Prophet</i></p> <p>7th Kingdom Begins: <i>Dragon</i></p> <p>8th Kingdom Present: <i>Beast</i></p>	<p>7th Kingdom Dies: <i>Dragon</i></p> <p>8th Kingdom Reigns: <i>Beast</i></p> <p>6th Kingdom Dead: <i>False Prophet</i></p>	