

## Esther : Meanwhile in Persia

### Esther ch4

Esther is a bit of an ancient thriller, full of plot twists and intrigue. God's people face genocide far from their homeland. Only the new Queen can save them, but it's dangerous.

Her story belongs historically just before Ezra and Nehemiah. While some exiled Jews have begun to return to resettle Judah and Jerusalem, many remain in Persia (which had taken over power from Babylon). Here, they are under threat from spiteful vizier Haman.

Queen Esther's secret is that she is one of God's people. Her uncle Mordecai urges her to plead with the King on their behalf. Will she stay silent, or be brave and stand up for her beliefs, even if it results in her being condemned?

I'll not spoil it by revealing the ending but among the drama, humour and spectacle (did I mention there's a beauty contest, and particularly high gallows?) this gripping tale teaches us that God uses people for great good, if we are prepared to *practise* our faith, and courage!