**For Such a Time as This**

The Biblical story of Esther is rich in everything that makes a story a good read. It is *Cinderella* and *Beauty and the Beast* , with some aspects of *Robin Hood,* all in one. It’s a love story full of romance, evil plots, revenge, and reward.

**Discussion and overview of the book of Esther**

Answer the following questions **thoroughly**!

Chapter 1

1. Read Ezra 1:1-8. Briefly summarize these events that occurred about 52 years before the reign of Ahasuerus, King of Persia during the time of Esther.
2. What kind of person was King Ahasuerus? What are his strengths and weaknesses as a leader?

Chapter 2

1. Write a short paragraph characterizing Esther and her relationship with others?
2. What type of relationship does Esther and Mordecai have?

Chapter 3

1. Background information: Summarize the story of King Saul and King Agag in I Samuel 15.
2. List all phrases (with verses) that reveal Haman’s attitude toward the Jews.

Chapter 4

1. In verse 8, what 2 things was Mordecai asking Esther to do when she went into the king?

Chapter 5

1. Summarize what is said about the following in this chapter: Esther, Mordecai, and Haman.
2. List the actions of the king in verses 2-5; what traits of the kings are apparent in this passage?
3. According to Esther 4:11, what is the significance of 5:1-2?

Chapter 6

Summarize this chapter.

Chapter 7

1. Compare Esther’s request in verses 3 and 4 with Mordecai’s in chapter 4.

Chapter 8

1. What is the king’s role in this chapter?
2. List at least 4 things the Jews are given permission to do?

Chapter 9/10

1. Summarize these 2 chapters.
2. What is the feast of Purim?

LITERARY ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER

We have been discussing motifs (recurring themes/elements) in class.

Briefly discuss the following motifs and provide specific examples of each.

* Food
* Clothing/apparel
* Law/legality
* Reversal
* Pairs: Notice how several things come in pairs; make a list of several pairs

Ex: Esther gives 2 banquets

Discuss irony in Esther.

What is the theme of Esther?