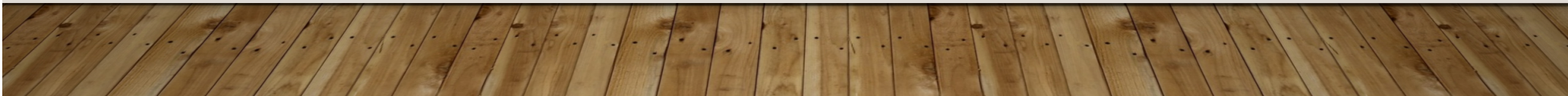


A NEW LOOK AT ESTHER



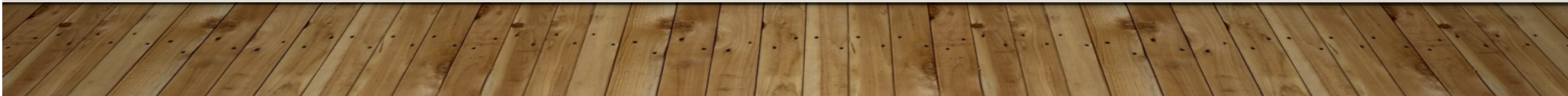
Esther 1:1 – 2:18

Miss Persia



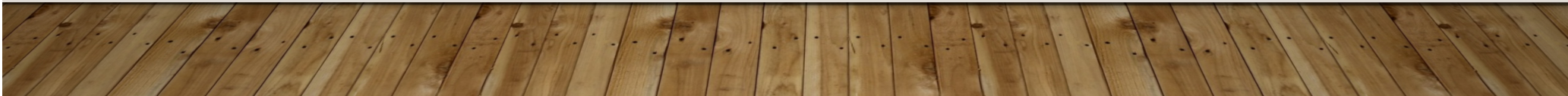
ESTHER 1:1-4

- 1) Now in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over **127 provinces**,
- 2) in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in Susa, the citadel,
- 3) in the third year of his reign he gave a feast for all his **officials and servants**. The **army** of Persia and Media and the **nobles and governors** of the provinces were before him
- 4) while he showed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor and pomp of his greatness for many days, **180 days**



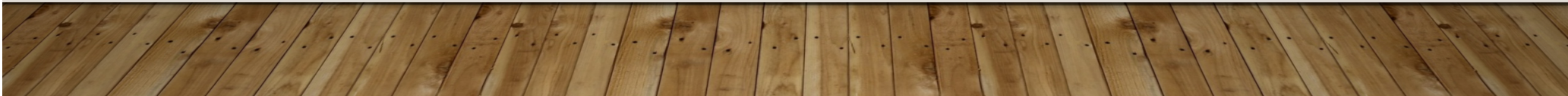
DANIEL 11:2

- 2) “And now I will show you the truth. Behold, three more kings shall arise in Persia, and a **fourth shall be far richer than all of them**. And when he has become strong through his riches, he shall stir up all against the kingdom of Greece.



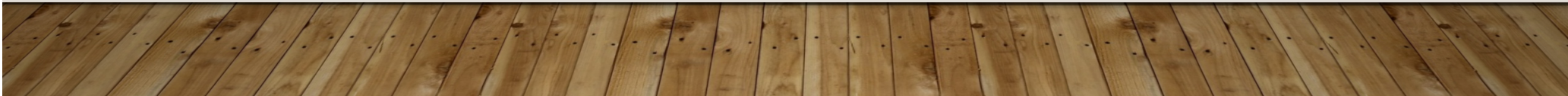
ESTHER 1:5

- 5) And when these days were completed, the king gave for **all the people** present in Susa the citadel, both great and small, a feast lasting for **seven days** in the court of the garden of the king's palace.



ESTHER 1:19

- 19)** If it please the king, let a royal order go out from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it may not be repealed, that Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus. And let the king give her royal position to another who is **better than she.**

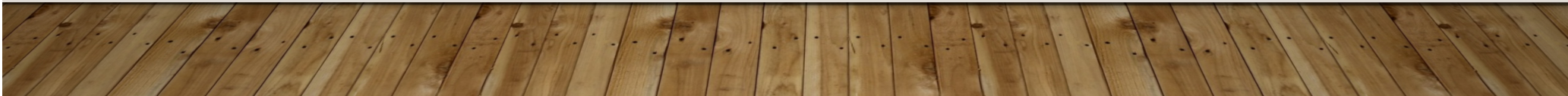


ESTHER 2:16

- 16) And when Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the **seventh year** of his reign

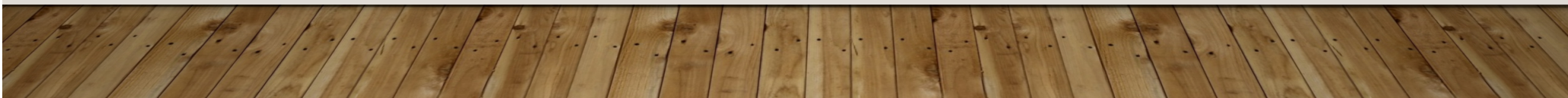
ESTHER 2:15

- 15)** When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was **winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her.**



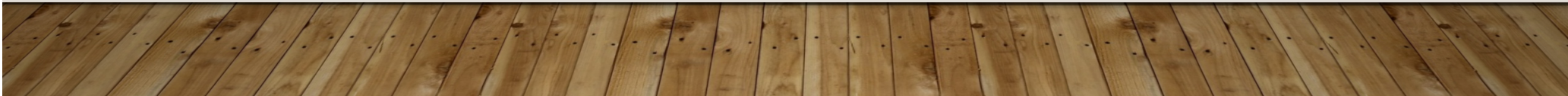
1ST SAMUEL 16:7

- 7) But the Lord said to Samuel, “**Do not look on his appearance** or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the **Lord looks on the heart.**”



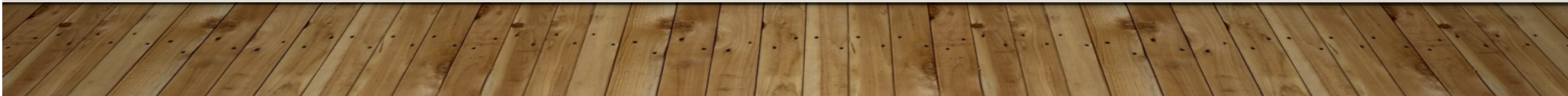
LUKE 16:15

- 15)** And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For **what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.**



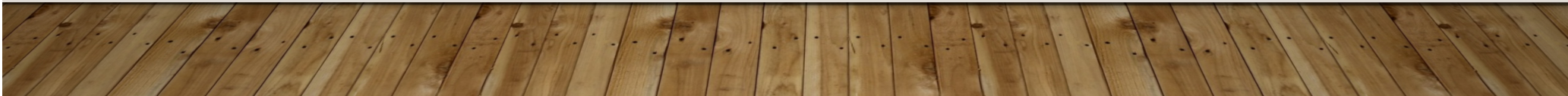
ESTHER 2:17

- 17) The king loved Esther **more than all the women**, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.





- 1) Why is the name of God never mentioned in the Book of Esther?
- 2) Why is prayer never specifically mentioned in the book?
- 3) Why does the New Testament never mention or refer to anything concerning the Book of Esther?
- 4) The Book of Esther gives the historical basis for the feast of Purim. Why is this feast never mentioned anywhere else in the Bible?
- 5) Why is there never any mention of God's Law, of the Holy Land, or of Jerusalem and the temple?
- 6) Why are we so easily inclined to look upon King Ahasuerus as evil and to view Mordecai and Esther as godly?
- 7) Why are we happy to see Esther on the throne?





I) From the very beginning of God's dealings with the patriarchs and then with Israel, God promised to dwell among His people in the promised land of Israel, and specifically in the temple in Jerusalem

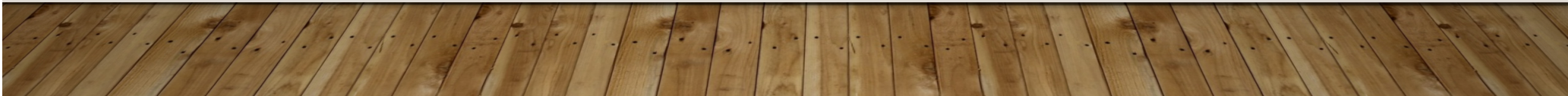
Genesis 28:10-19

Exodus 15:17

Numbers 35:34

Deuteronomy 12:5

Deuteronomy 12:11





2)

When the people of Israel sinned and were thrust out of their land, they were to look toward Jerusalem and the temple and pray to the Lord

1st Kings 8:33-53



3)

While God indicated that the nation Israel would sin and be driven from the promised land and taken captive in a foreign land, He also promised that He would bring them back to the land of promise

Deuteronomy 30:1-5



4)

The prophet Jeremiah did instruct the Israelites to settle themselves in Babylon for a 70 year sojourn, but then they were to return to the promised land

Jeremiah 29:1-7

Jeremiah 29:10-14



- 5) In captivity, the righteous did not forget their land or the temple but yearned for it

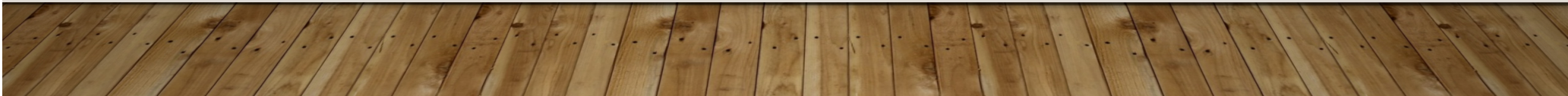
Psalm 137:1-9



- 6) While in captivity, those who were godly purposed not to defile themselves but to live according to their faith and the Word of God

Daniel 1:8

Compare Daniel 1 to Esther 1 – Daniel is not afraid of the consequences that might befall him if it is revealed that he is a faithful follower of the one true God. Esther conceals her identity and lives as though she was a Persian.





7)

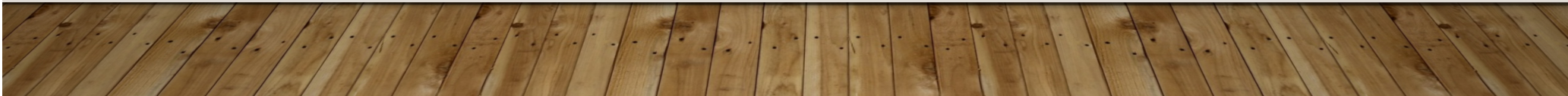
At the end of 70 years, God moved in the heart of Cyrus to make a decree that all the Jews could return to their land, just as the prophet Jeremiah prophesied

Jeremiah 30:1-4

2nd Chronicles 36:21-23

A NEW LOOK AT ESTHER

- Ezra and Nehemiah are the account of the godly Jews who returned to the promised land and who sought to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple amidst great difficulty and opposition
- Esther, on the other hand, is an account of those who became too attached to the land of their sojournings and thus disobeyed God by not returning when it was not only allowed, but commanded
- While Ezra and Nehemiah focus on the return to the land by the faithful remnant, Esther depicts the fate of those who remain in the land of their captivity



WHY?

- 1) A warning to those of us who live our lives not as **“strangers and pilgrims,”** but as citizens of an earthly realm
- 2) A warning to not forget where our **“home”** is and to live in a way that makes us
- 3) To teach us that even when we are unfaithful, **God remains faithful** to His Word and to His covenant promises

