

# Esther

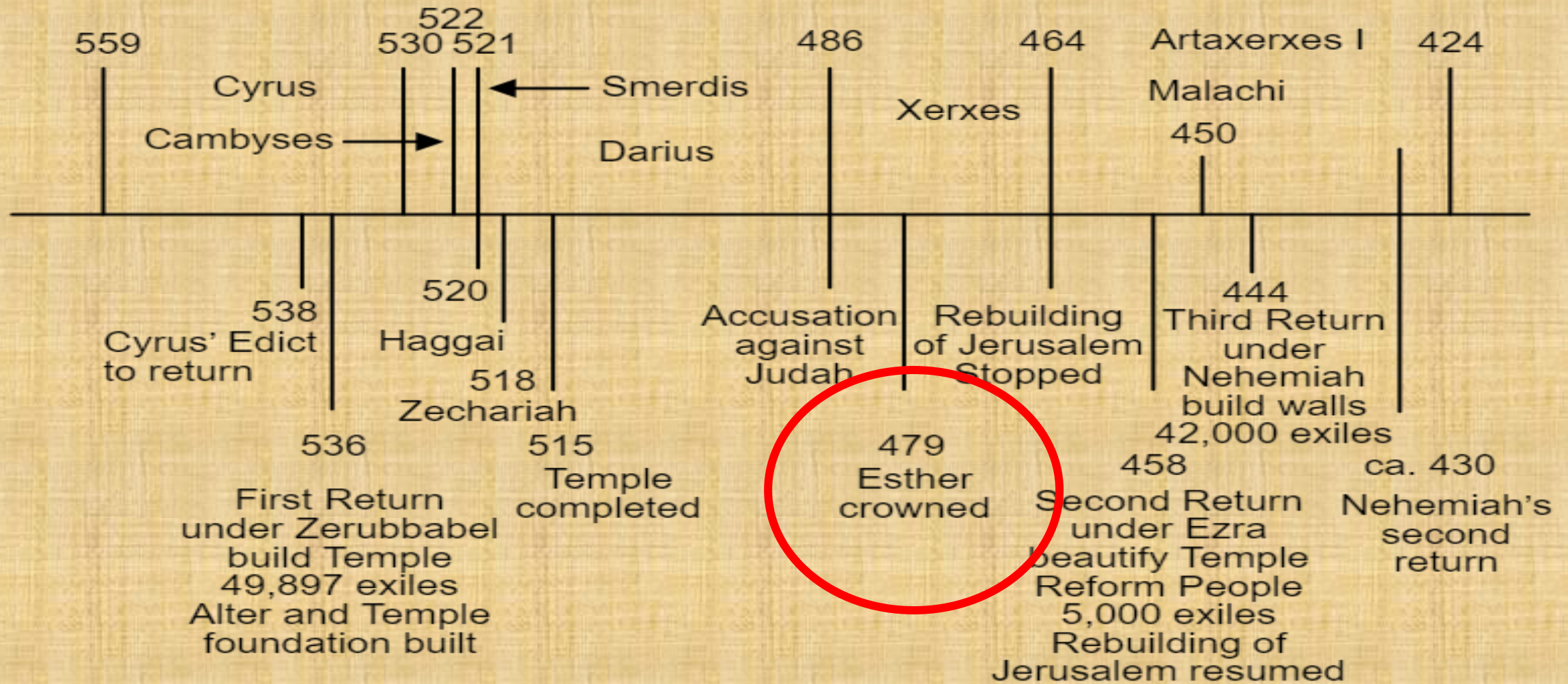
Esther, a Jewess, who had not returned to Judah (Jerusalem) after Cyrus's decree, finds herself Queen of the Medo-Persian (Achaemenid) Empire.

480 - 460 BC

Overview



# Timeline of Esther





# Esther

# Overview

Esther (Hadassah) replaces King Ahasuerus's previous wife, Queen Vashti.

Mordecai, Queen Esther's cousin, and adopted father, offends Haman, the Agagite (Amalekite).

Haman, guided by divination (by lots, 'Pur' in Heb.), obtains a decree from the King, under false pretences, to destroy all the Jews in the Empire (inc. Jerusalem) on the 13<sup>th</sup> of Adar (12 month).

Mordecai, challenges Esther (whose ethnicity is unknown to her husband the King), to intercede with the King on behalf of her people, and use her position, to deliver them from this fate.

Queen Esther, braves death (anyone who approaches the Kings throne without being summoned risks death) to petition the king.

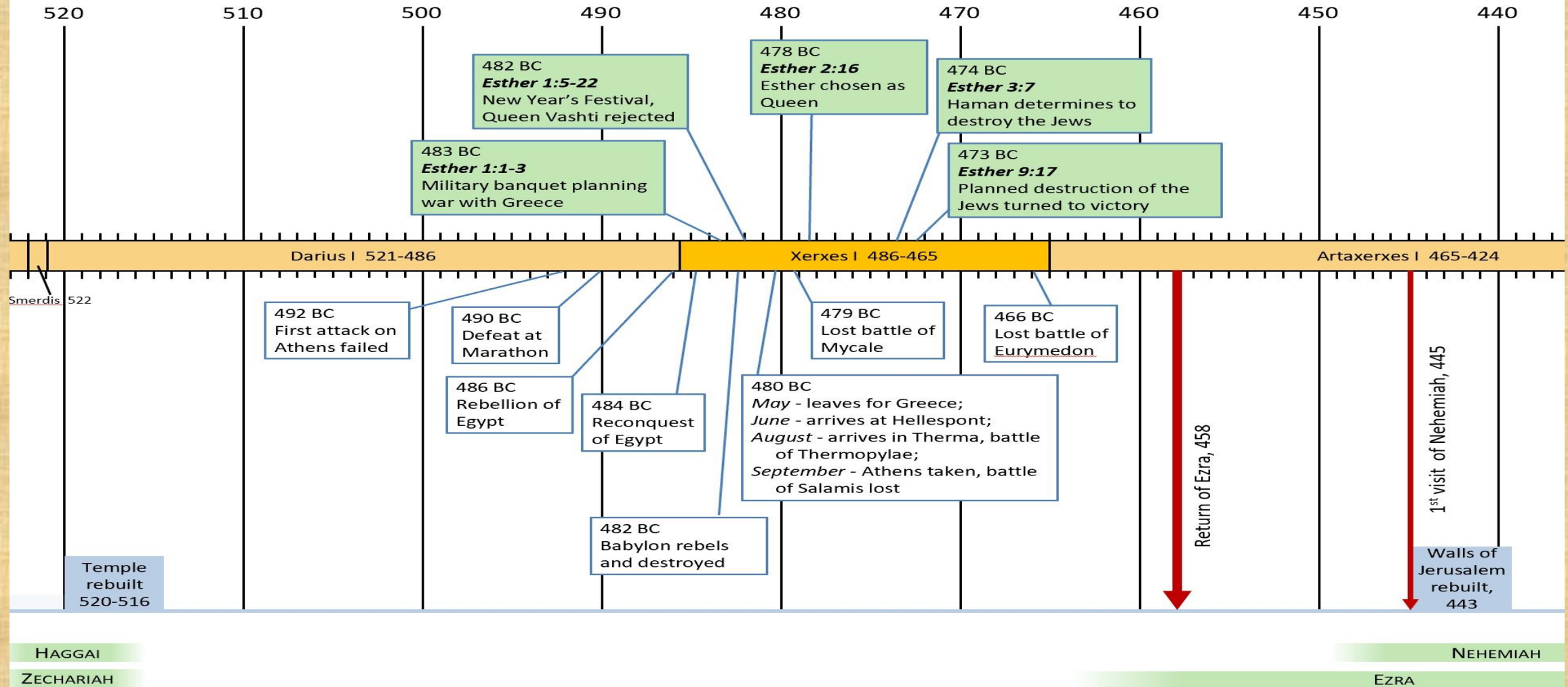
Esther reveals her ethnicity to the King, and the threat Haman poses to her, and her people, the Jews. The King (who cannot revoke his first decree) grants the Jews the right, throughout the Empire, to pre-emptively destroy those who threaten them.

This event is memorialised in Jewish history by the feast of Purim.

# Esther

the return and restoration

## Setting of Esther



480-460 BC

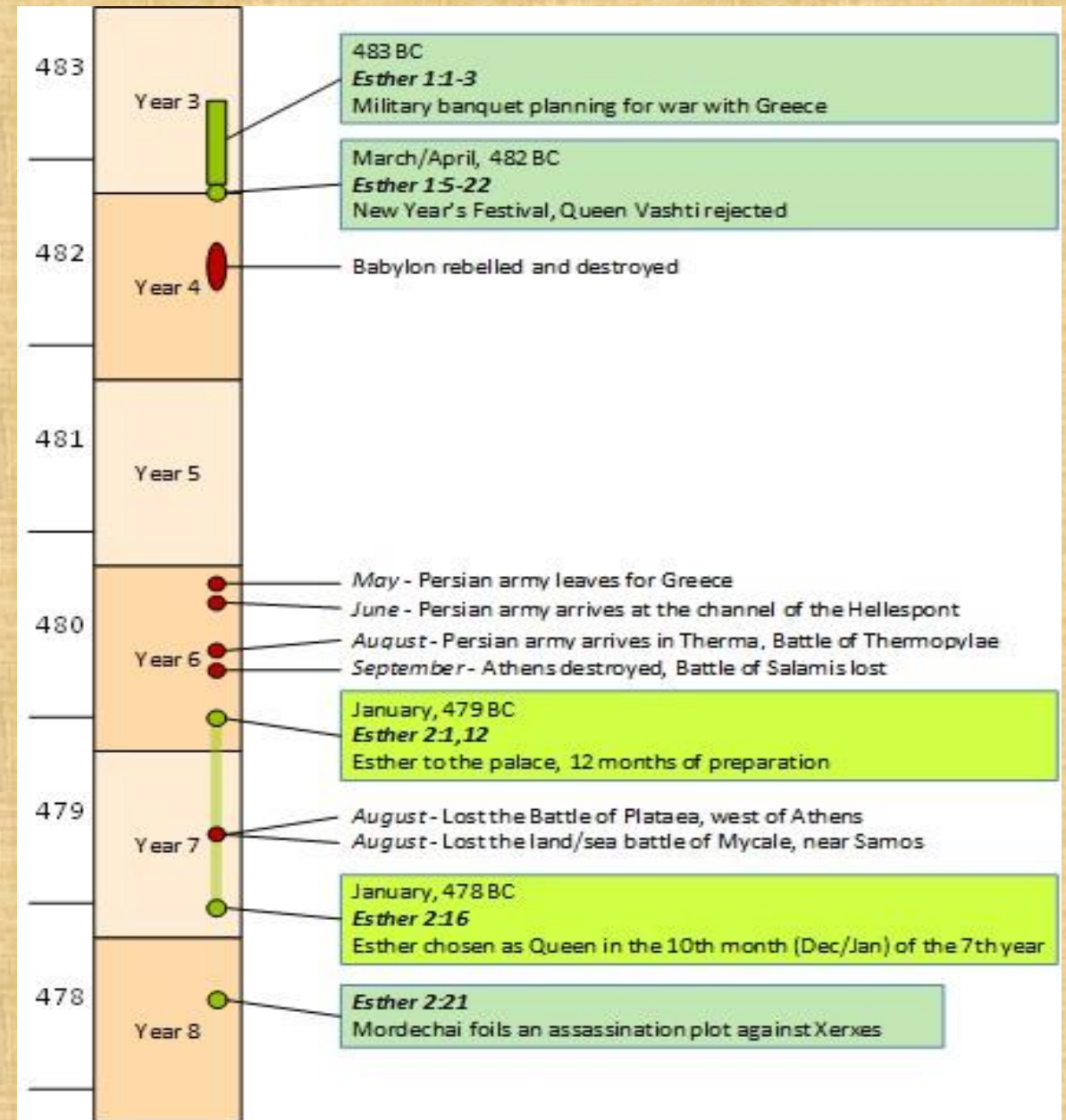
# Esther

the return and restoration

## Outline

- I. The Feasts of Ahasuerus (ArtaXerxes).  
Queen Vashti deposed (1).  
Esther made Queen (2).
- II. The Feasts of Esther.  
Mordecai uncovers a plot (2).  
Haman's plan (3).  
Mordecai gets Esther to help (4).  
Esther's request - 1<sup>st</sup> Banquet(5).  
King's sleepless night (5-6).  
Haman hanged - 2<sup>nd</sup> Banquet(7).
- III. The Feast of Purim.  
The King's edict for the Jews (8).  
Purim Instituted (9).  
Mordecai promoted (10).

480 - 460 BC





# Esther

## Key Themes

1. **Record the events behind the institution of the feast of Purim.**
2. **Ancient Enemies remain present (+ future) Enemies.**
  - a) **Satan, the World + the works of the flesh.**
3. **God's faithfulness to His Covenants, despite Israel's (our) unfaithfulness.**
  - a) **Esther + Co. Remain in exile, but God still saves them.**
4. **Show that God is at work, even when we cannot discern His actions, or methods; because, they do not seem appropriate?**
  - a) **The book does not directly mention God, worship, prayer, or sacrifice.**
5. **Help The Church understand God's utilisation of National Israel.**
6. **The Day of Destruction, becomes the time of Deliverance.**
  - a) **The Cross, the Rapture, Jacob's trouble.**

# Esther

# Expansion

## 2. Ancient Enemies.

### A. Haman (Agagite/Amalekite – Deut 25:17-19, Exodus 17:8-16)

1. Opposes God + God's people = Satan/Antichrist.
  - a. Driven by pride, Haman covets what the King (God) possess by right.
  - b. Haman is provoked when Mordecai (Jesus) refuses to 'worship' him.
  - c. By subterfuge (deception) Haman gains 'Power over Death'.
  - d. Haman's plan to defeat Mordecai (hanging) leads to Mordecai being 'raised up' and glorified above Haman.
  - e. Haman's plan backfires and becomes the means of Haman's own defeat (+ Haman's 'family').
2. Haman's plan to annihilate the Jewish race (those in Susa AND the returnees in Judah) opposed God's Covenant plans...
  - a. For Israel to bring forth God's Messiah – Redeemer.
  - b. For Israel to receive The Kingdom 'Come' upon earth.

# Esther

## Expansion 2

3. God's faithfulness, despite His people's unfaithfulness.
  - A. Cyrus's decree made a way for Judah to return to The Land, and active covenant [Mosaic] communion with God + receive His covenant promises (Messiah).
    1. **Esther** represents 'Nominal' Israel; the Jews that did not return, and appear not to value God's covenant communion + promises (Messiah), over the opportunities of the World (circumcised in flesh not spirit).
      - a. Esther is indistinguishable from all the other 'people' in the world who seek security + prosperity (Mordecai instructs Esther to conceal her ethnicity).
      - b. Mordecai (Jesus) provokes Haman (Satan/Antichrist) to instigate a 'time of trouble' for Esther & Co.
      - c. Mordecai (Jesus) has both a Paternal, and Kinship, relationship with Esther.
      - d. Mordecai (Jesus) provokes Esther to acknowledge her true (Cov't) heritage, identity + 'birthright' (with HIM?).
      - e. Esther places her trust in Mordecai (as she never has before).
      - f. Mordecai directs Esther to use her Covenant relationship (status) with her husband, the King (God), to save the nation.
      - g. Esther has revenge on her enemies, despite not being any 'more righteous' than them.
    2. Despite Nominal Israel's unfaithfulness, God still honours His covenant promises to them (Abraham + Davidic).
      - a. God will use (has used) Nominal Israel to bring the world God's Messiah.
      - b. God will still use Nominal Israel (bringing them to national faith + salvation) to inaugurate the 'Coming' of God's Kingdom rule over the earth.

Nominal Israel (+ unbelieving Gentiles) cannot see what God is doing (hence God is not mentioned).