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**VIDEO LECTURE MODULE:**

**BIBLE FOR  
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

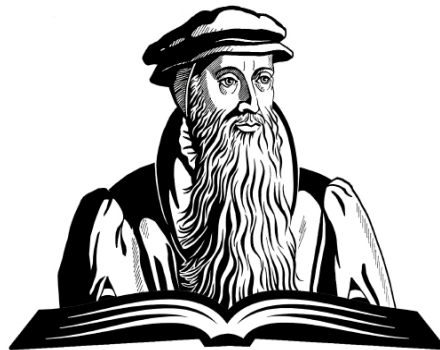
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**Old Testament**

**Lesson 97**

**Esther the Queen**

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



**The John Knox Institute**  
of Higher Education

*Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide*

**John Knox Institute of Higher Education**

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Dr. Daniel Sweetman is an instructor at Grace Christian Academy in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA.  
[www.gcagr.org](http://www.gcagr.org)

# Module

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## BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

### Old Testament

#### 113 LESSONS

*77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge*

*36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman*

01. The Bible: The Word of God
02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God
03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation
04. A Gracious Promise
05. Cain and Abel
06. Only Noah Found Grace
07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape
08. The Noahic Covenant
09. The Tower of Babel
10. Abram: Called by God
11. Abram Intercedes for Lot
12. Melchizadek
13. Righteous by Faith
14. Two Sons
15. Lessons from Lot's Life
16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God
17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision
18. Isaac and Rebekah
19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau
20. Jacob the Deceiver
21. God Preserves Jacob
22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el
23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated
24. An Eye upon God
25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison
26. Joseph and His Brethren
27. Jacob Comes to Joseph
28. God Heard Their Cry
29. Moses and the Burning Bush
30. Let My People God
31. Deliverance
32. God's Patience with a Complaining People
33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness
34. The Lord Dwells Among His People
35. A Priest for the People
36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People
37. Worshiping God Rightly
38. Walk Not According to the World
39. Hearts of Ingratitude
40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming
41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up
42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath
43. Cities of Refuge
44. A New Generation
45. Moses' Last Days
46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled
47. A Promise to Rahab
48. The Rise of Judges
49. Gideon—God with Him
50. Samson

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
- 97. Esther the Queen**
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

# Lesson 97

## Esther the Queen

### The Book of Esther, chapters 1 and 2

#### Memory Verse

*“The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water:  
he turneth it whithersoever he will.”*

*Proverbs 21:1*

#### Esther chapter 1

In the book of Esther, we find ourselves once again at the court of the king of Persia. The king this time is not Artaxerxes, whom Nehemiah served as cupbearer, but his father Xerxes, or Ahasuerus. Though the book of Esther is placed after Nehemiah, her story actually comes first.

The book of Esther opens with a description of a great feast held by Ahasuerus. It lasted six months. During this time, the king and his nobles and princes were likely also planning the next conquest, which was to conquer Greece. During the last week, the doors of the palace and palace grounds were opened to all the people of Shushan. They could walk around freely, admire the king’s wealth, and drink as much of the king’s wine as they liked. Meanwhile the king and the queen were hosting the nobles and their wives separately. On the last grand day of the feast, proud king Ahasuerus suddenly thought of one thing he had not yet displayed to the nobles. That was his beautiful wife! Immediately he ordered her to come to the men’s feast to display her beauty. The servants came back with the news that queen Vashti refused to come! The king was “very wroth, and his anger burned in him.” Before he sailed off to conquer Greece, queen Vashti was banished forever.

#### Esther chapter 2

“After these things, when the wrath of the king was appeased, he remembered Vashti,” we read in verse one. The king was back from Greece, where he had suffered a humiliating defeat. The palace felt empty. How he missed Vashti now, at this low point in his life! The king’s servants decided to help him. They suggested that the king should find a different wife. There were girls enough. Why not round up the most beautiful ones in the empire, and have them all! The one whom he liked best could be crowned queen, and the rest remain as concubines.

“Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew” (Esther 2:5). We know that when the call came to return to the Promised Land, many Jews remained. One of these was Mordecai. Living with Mordecai was his niece Hadassah, who had lost both of her parents. Hadassah was “fair and beautiful,” and was not overlooked by the servants of Ahasuerus. She too was brought to the palace. During the hasty farewell, Mordecai whispered to her not to tell anyone that she was Jewish.

One by one, the virgins were brought to the king. Each one had undergone a lengthy beauty treatment and was allowed to choose from a large selection of clothing and jewelry. Each time however, the king shook his head. None had the grace and beauty of queen Vashti. Then it was Hadassah's turn. She was not as gaudily dressed and made up as the other girls. The king was at once struck by her beauty and grace. Then and there he knew he had found his new queen. He called her Esther, and set the royal crown on her head. A great wedding feast was held.

Chapter 2 ends with a seemingly unrelated event. Mordecai was a gatekeeper at one of the gates near the royal palace. One day he overheard two angry chamberlains plotting to kill king Ahasuerus. Quickly he notified his niece. Queen Esther alerted the king. The plot was discovered, and the two chamberlains were hanged. The king's scribe made a note of it in the book of the chronicles.

But what of the rich reward which Persian kings were known to lavish upon faithful and watchful servants who saved the king's life? Somehow the king forgot! We don't read how Mordecai took this. Have you ever felt that God does not seem to notice your effort and zeal? Instead of receiving blessings, your troubles only seem to increase. "Verily, I have cleansed my hands in vain," Asaph cried out when he saw the prosperity of the wicked (Psalm 73). But then, when he was brought "into the sanctuary of God," and saw a glimpse of the end of the wicked, he trembled. There he also felt in his heart the sweet favor of God. How foolish he felt to have envied the wicked when he should have pitied them!

### **Review Questions**

#### Esther 1

1. What do we read about king Ahasuerus on the seventh day?
  - a. He completed his plans to invade Greece.
  - b. His heart was merry with wine.
  - c. He was unwell from feasting too long.
  - d. He called for the holy vessels of the temple.
  
2. What did the king NOT do when queen Vashti would not come at his command?
  - a. He asked his counselors what he should do to Vashti
  - b. He made a new law that men should bear rule in their own house.
  - c. He reached out the golden sceptre and forgave Vashti.
  - d. He ordered Vashti to be banished.

Esther 2

3. Fill in the blanks.

“And the maiden \_\_\_\_\_ him, and she obtained \_\_\_\_\_ of him.”

“And Esther \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of all them that \_\_\_\_\_ upon her.”

“...and she obtained \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in his \_\_\_\_\_ more than all the \_\_\_\_\_.”

4. From Esther 1 and 2, match the person with the correct description.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| _____ Memucan  | a. Esther’s father.   |
| _____ Abihail  | b. The counsellor who advised the king to send away Vashti. |
| _____ Mordecai | c. The keeper of the women who favored Esther.              |
| _____ Hegai    | d. One of the chamberlains who plotted to kill the king.    |
| _____ Bigthan  | e. Esther’s father.   |

**Discussion Questions**

1. Ahasuerus lived for his possessions, passions, and pride. How does 1 John 2:15–17 warn about the danger of living for the things of this world?

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2. What does Mark 8:36–37 say about this? What should we be pursuing instead? (Matthew 6:33)

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3. Why do you think Esther hid her Jewish identity? How might things have gone differently if she had told the king that she was Jewish?

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4. By the end of chapter 2, Esther is queen and Mordecai has saved the king's life. By all outward appearances, they are safe and secure. Have you ever gone from this position to one of sudden danger or insecurity? What were Joseph's conclusions about the providence of God in Genesis 50:20? How can it help us face situations we don't understand?

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