

## ***Bible Study Notes – Week 3 The Divine Blueprint***

### ***(Focus on Esther)***

**This Old Testament Book is set in the mid 400's BC in the Persian Empire ruled by King Xerxes.**

**The characters are Esther – a young orphan who sets off on an extraordinary adventure. Mordecai – Esther's shrewd and faithful uncle. Xerxes the rather headstrong King. Vashti – The Queen that didn't last too long and Haman the villain of our tale.**

**To get you thinking – Q. What did you think of the Miss World competitions that used to be so popular?**

**Now Read Esther ch.1&2**

**Another Q. Fluke or all in God's plan, what do you think?**

**Now Read Esther ch.3&4**

**Another Q. as the plot thickens**

**Is this again a total fluke or all in God's plan?**

**Now read Esther ch.5-8**

**A Jewish Queen, a New Jewish Prime Minister and a people saved, this is a remarkable adventure indeed. Did you know that God is not mentioned once in the whole book!! You might like to now take some time to review the chapters we have read and see if you can spot God in action even if He is not ever called by name, take a note of each of these.**

**There are several major themes in the Book of Esther**

- **God can be present and at work even if He seems hidden or absent – something to remember and ponder in these Covid-19 days.**
- **The ancient promises or covenant of God with His people seemed to be all but over and these exiled Jews had to cope with some fearful days and many internal questions and doubts, yet, again we see when God makes a promise He keeps it! You might like to ponder the promises He makes to every believer, are you resting on them?**
- **In this Divine Blueprint we see unlikely heroes and the impossible become possible, what does this adventure say to us about the nature of the sovereignty of God?**
- **Finally, in a sense all Christians are in exile (trapped in a sinful world while awaiting Heaven), what does the Book of Esther say to us about how we should cope?**

**Perhaps we could all do with a good dose of Purim (if you read the final chapters of Esther you will see what I mean. No matter how scattered, or, how tough things get God will be faithful and we will remain His people**

**Enjoy this study and please tune in for Divine Blueprint Week 4**

**God Bless**

**Mark**