



The book of Esther

DESCRIPTION SHEET

Author

The book of Esther says nothing about its author. However, several candidates are proposed, namely Mordecai, Ezra and Nehemiah. But Mordecai would be the most qualified candidate because he was a very important actor in the unfolding of the event. In addition, we notice that the writer of this text has a deep knowledge of both Jewish and Persian culture.

Date

The date of writing of the text is estimated between 450 and 430 BC.

Main theme and target audience

The author of this text obviously wants to show the people of Israel how God, in his providence, even if he seems to hide, works to deliver his people. This text relates the events that occurred during the domination of the Persian Empire over the ancient world. This text reports that the hatred of one nearly exterminated all the Jews in the Persian Empire. However, through Esther, the chosen queen, God delivered this people. It is noticeable that God's name does not appear anywhere in this text, but the course of events clearly shows that God was very active in delivering his people and punishing the wicked.

Outline of the book

1. The rise of Esther as queen. (Est. 1:1 - 2:18)
2. The defeat of Haman before Mordecai. (Est. 2:19 - 7:10)
3. The failure of the attempt of genocide of the people of God. (Est. 8:1 - 10:3)