

Recap of 9/1/19 (Esther 1:1):

1. The Book of Esther illustrates for us the Providence of God. Richards calls it “God’s supervising presence.” He writes: “..., the Book of Esther is the Scriptures’ clearest example of the doctrine of providence. God, although hidden from our view works through circumstances and human choices to accomplish His own ends. Esther teaches us to see the hidden God revealed in the ebb and flow of personal and world events and to praise Him for His continual care.”
2. The random people and events of our lives are not random, not coincidence. We often don’t see how God’s is working until after the fact. That He is working we must accept by faith. We must learn to see God in the seemingly random event of our lives. Some of the seemingly random events in the Book of Esther are: Vashti is deposed, Mordecai overhears and exposes a plot against King Xerxes, Esther becomes Queen, Xerxes has a sleepless night in which the portion of history is read to him about Mordecai’s saving his life the night before Haman is planning to spring his plot upon Mordecai, the date chosen, by lot, for the extermination of the Jews is far enough in the future to give Mordecai and Esther time to stop it.
3. “It’s easy to see God in the miraculous. It’s not so easy to see Him in the mundane. But that’s where most of us live. We live without seeing handwriting on the wall or hearing thunder from Sinai. We live with God not centerstage but directing unobtrusively from the winds. This is all the more reason why we need to be sensitive to His voice—so we can be aware of and attentive to the subtle ways in which He works. And no book will sharpen our spiritual senses more than Esther. Though God is invisible, He is invincible. That is the message of the Book of Esther. The invisible God who may appear to be absent is the invincible God who is working out His best plan. That is not only true for a young woman and her people in ancient Persia; that’s true for us today in the twentieth century...” (Original Men’s Devotional Bible).
4. The events of Esther occur 21 years before Ezra and 35 years before Nehemiah.