**ESTHER**

**Providence**

**What you need to KNOW:**

The book of Esther is one of two books in the Bible named after women, the other being Ruth. However, the two women could not be more different in personality and character.

Ruth was a loving and faithful woman with tender consideration for others. She was an outsider who came into the nation of Israel not by birth, but by choice, through her marriage to Boaz. And it was from their bi-cultural marriage that The Lord would create the specific family within Israel that would bring the Promised Child of Genesis 3:15 into the world. Ruth and Boaz were the great grandparents of King David. It would be a descendant of David who would give birth to the Savior.

Esther was a sensual, competitive, crafty and, sometimes, ruthless woman; who became the Queen of Persia through a kind of beauty contest while deliberately hiding her Jewish identity from the pagan King. Yet, the Lord used her less than admirable skillset to pull political levers and navigate palace intrigue to spare the Jews from being wiped from the face of the earth by a wickedly ambitious government official named Haman.

As you read the book of Esther you will struggle to find one noble character in the entire narrative. Nevertheless, The Lord providentially superintended all the schemes, maneuvers, and drama of this ‘pack of wolves’ to preserve the nation to whom the savior of the world would be born some 500 years later.

**GET GOING!**

**Continue your personal Walk Through the Bible by reading, or listening to, Esther.**