

RUTLAND STREET CHURCH  
SERMON SERIES

# Esther

YOU HAVE COME TO THE ROYAL  
POSITION FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS



**The Feast of the king 1:1 – 2:18**

**The Feasts of Esther 2:19 – 7:10**

**The Feast of Purim 8:1 – 10:3**







8:1-2

That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman's estate.

8:5-8

“If it pleases the king,” she said, “and if he regards me with favor and thinks it the right thing to do, and if he is pleased with me, let an order be written overruling the dispatches that Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, devised and wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king’s provinces. <sup>6</sup>For how can I bear to see disaster fall on my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my family?”

<sup>7</sup> King Xerxes replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, “Because Haman attacked the Jews, I have given his estate to Esther, and they have impaled him on the pole he set up. <sup>8</sup> Now write another decree in the king’s name in behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king’s signet ring—for no document written in the king’s name and sealed with his ring can be revoked.”





**Just done it!**  
— King Xerxes.

**JUST DO IT.** 

**LET'S DO THIS.**

8:11 The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the armed men of any nationality or province **who might** attack them and their women and children, and to plunder the property of their enemies.

8:10 Mordecai wrote in the name of King Xerxes, sealed the dispatches with the king's signet ring, and sent them by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses **especially bred for the king.**

8:15 When Mordecai left the king's presence, he was wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa held a joyous celebration. <sup>16</sup> For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honour. <sup>17</sup> In every province and in every city to which the edict of the king came, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And **many people** of other nationalities became Jews because **fear of the Jews** had seized them.

9:2 The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those determined to destroy them. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were **afraid of them**.<sup>3</sup> And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king's administrators helped the Jews, because **fear of Mordecai** had seized them.<sup>4</sup> Mordecai was prominent in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and **he became more and more powerful**.

The Result:

13<sup>th</sup> day of Adar – 500 dead in Susa, 75,000 dead across the empire

14<sup>th</sup> day of Adar – 300 dead in Susa

9:20 Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, <sup>21</sup> to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar <sup>22</sup> as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

<sup>23</sup> So the Jews agreed to continue the celebration they had begun, doing what Mordecai had written to them.

9:27 the Jews took it on themselves to establish the custom that they and their descendants and all who join them should without fail observe these two days every year, in the way prescribed and at the time appointed.<sup>28</sup> These days should be remembered and observed in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city. And these days of Purim should never fail to be celebrated by the Jews—nor should the memory of these days die out among their descendants.



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# *Esther*

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**WHAT** do we learn from the story of Esther?





## HONOURING NEW ZEALANDERS WHO FELL DURING WORLD WAR ONE

To commemorate their sacrifice Fields of Remembrance  
have been established throughout New Zealand.

This ANZAC Day a field of 3,988 White Memorial Crosses remembers those  
from Otago and Southland who died one hundred years ago in the First World War.

1915 – 698 killed in action  
1916 – 795 killed in action  
1917 – 1263 killed in action  
1918 – 1232 killed in action

 **WE WILL REMEMBER THEM** 

In 1918 New Zealand soldiers helped counter the German Spring Offensive,  
and liberated the French town of Le Quesnoy just a week before Armistice was declared.

The deadly influenza pandemic also took its toll of the soldiers in the field and at home.  
Some of the Crosses here commemorate those who died in the years immediately  
following the end of the War from wounds or illness contracted while on active service.  
Those of the Jewish faith are remembered with a Star of David.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,**

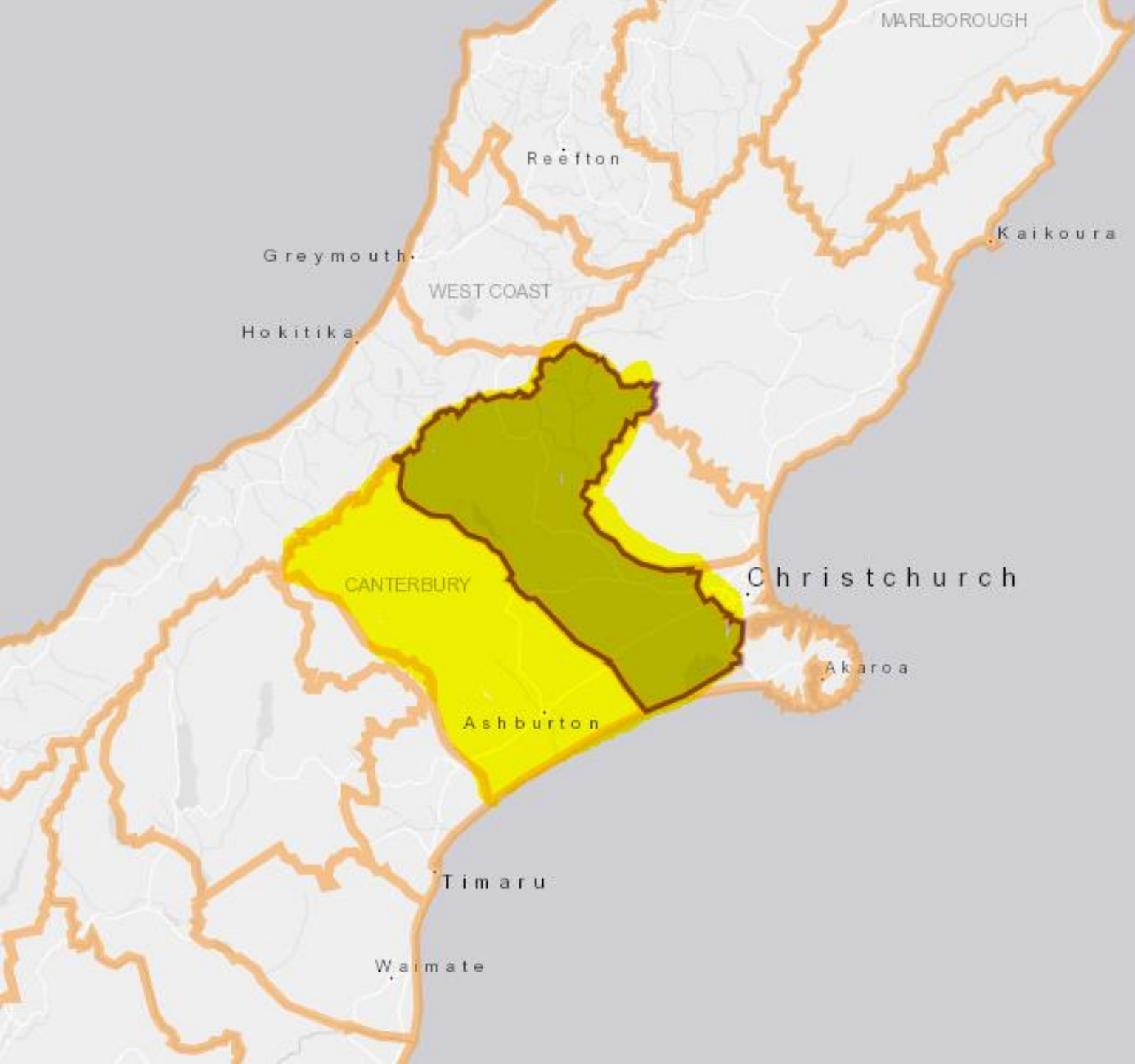
**We will remember them.**



This Field of Remembrance is hallowed ground, please treat it with respect.

[www.fieldsofremembrance.org.nz](http://www.fieldsofremembrance.org.nz)





Selwyn District – 44,595

Ashburton District –  
31,041

Total = 75,636



**74,919**

- Rutland – 5121
- Strown – 3705
- St Albans West – 2418
- St Albans East – 4692
- Merivale – 2706
- Papanui – 3642
- Aorangi – 5478
- Bryndwyr – 2985
- Holmwood – 2007
- Mona Vale – 2322
- Deans Bush – 1593
- Fendalton – 2877
- Jellie Park – 2658
- Westburn – 2937
- Ilam – 4854
- Upper Riccarton – 3066
- Avonhead – 3588
- Merrin – 1479
- Wairarapa – 1833
- Burnside – 2325
- Russley – 3174
- Hawthornden – 3177
- Avonhead West – 3063
- Harewood - 3219

**WHAT** do we learn from the story of Esther?


**WHAT** about God's wrath? **WHY?**

Miroslav Volf


*Shouldn't divine love be beyond wrath?*

*God is wrathful **because** God is love.*

## Structure of the book of Esther

C1-2 King's splendour, feasts & decrees  C9-10 Mordecai's splendour, feasts & decrees

Haman's elevation, edict & Banquet (C3)  Mordecai's elevation, edict & Banquet (C8)

Esther & Mordecai planning scene (C4)  Esther & Mordecai planning scene (C8)

Esther's first Banquet (C5)  Esther's second Banquet (C7)

Haman's humiliation and Mordecai's exaltation (C6)

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Mordecai's  
splendour, feasts & decrees

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edict & Banquet (C3)

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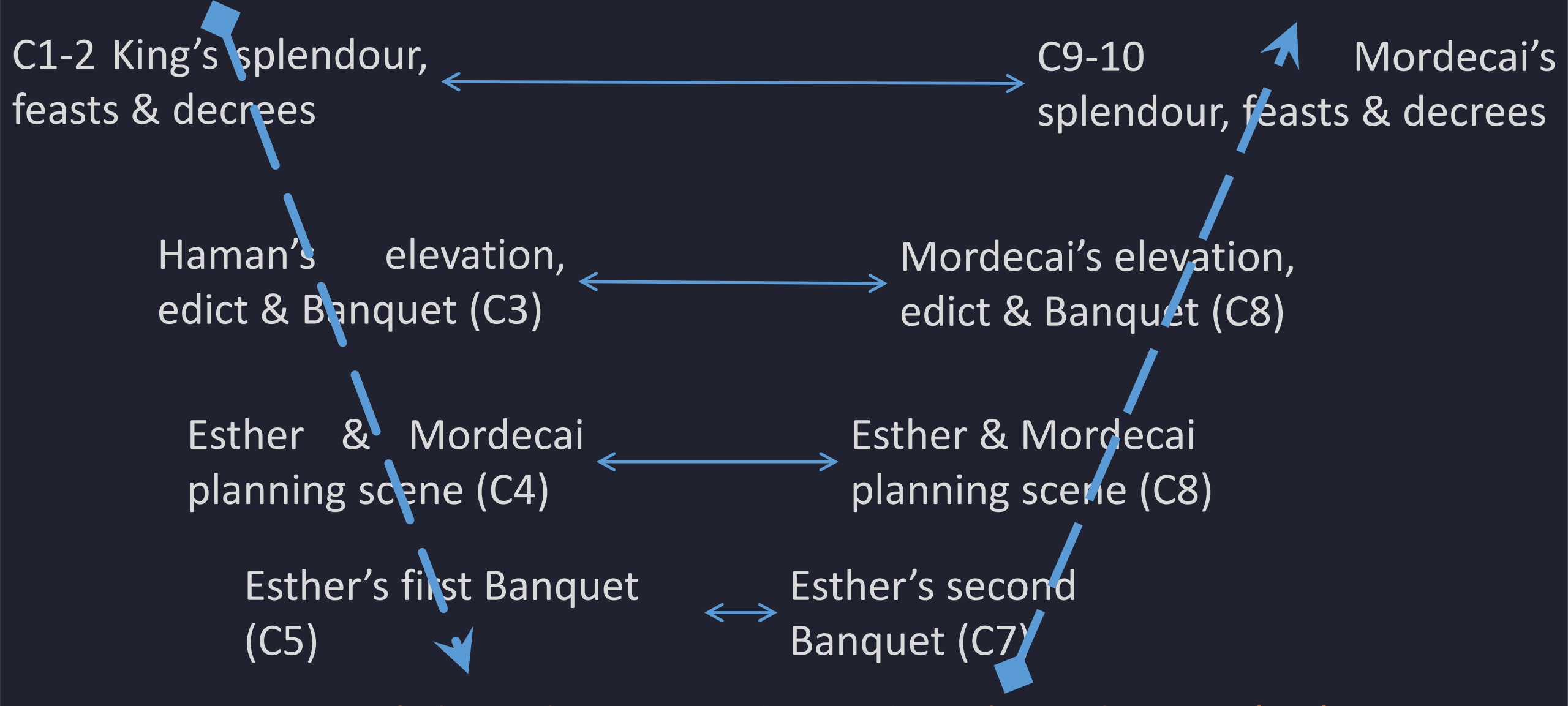
Esther & Mordecai  
planning scene (C4)

Esther & Mordecai  
planning scene (C8)

Esther's first Banquet  
(C5)

Esther's second  
Banquet (C7)

Haman's humiliation and Mordecai's exaltation (C6)





**WHAT** do we learn from the story of Esther?  
Moral Ambiguity...



*Where is God in the book of Esther?*

*God works in all things...*

*Romans 8:28, 'we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those that love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.'*

**WHAT** do we learn from the story of Esther?

WHAT do we learn from the story of Esther?

Hope



**WHAT** do we learn from the story of Esther?

**God is** – Sovereign, Faithful, Loving & Just.

*Hope is Real, because **God is**.*