

THE ESTHER PARADOX

Introduction - A paradox consists of true statements that lead to an apparent or real contradiction in logic or intuition. The paradox in Esther is about the God who speaks silently.

- A. The events in Esther occur about 483 BC, which is over a century after the Jews were exiled in 587 BC.

Esther 1:1-3

1. The King became angry with his Queen and deposed her. A beauty contest was held to select the next Queen.

Esther 2:5-7

2. Esther was selected to be Queen, but she did not reveal her Jewish identity at the advice of Mordecai.

- B. The Jewish population was threatened with genocide because of the schemes of Haman.

Esther 3:1-2

1. Haman convinced the King to send out a decree allowing the Jewish population in the Empire to be annihilated at a future date.
2. Mordecai called on Esther to intercede on behalf of her people.

Esther 4:12-16

- C. Esther invited the King and Haman to a banquet where the King promised to give her anything she requested, up to half the kingdom.

1. The night before Esther's second banquet the King could not sleep.

Esther 6:1-6

Esther 6:7-11

2. Esther makes her request known at the second banquet.

Esther 7:4-10

3. The King sent out a second decree that allowed the Jews to protect themselves and even eliminate their enemies.

D. This deliverance was celebrated by the Jews as a new festival called Purim.

Esther 9:23-27

Esther 10:3

Conclusion – Esther is unique among all the books of the Bible. It is the only one in which the name of God is not mentioned. There is no reference to God speaking through a prophet or acting to save His people. However, the series of providential events that saved the Jews was clearly understood by the author as God working behind the scenes to rescue his people. Sometimes God speaks silently in our lives.

Romans 8:28