

# ESTHER THE VICTIM?



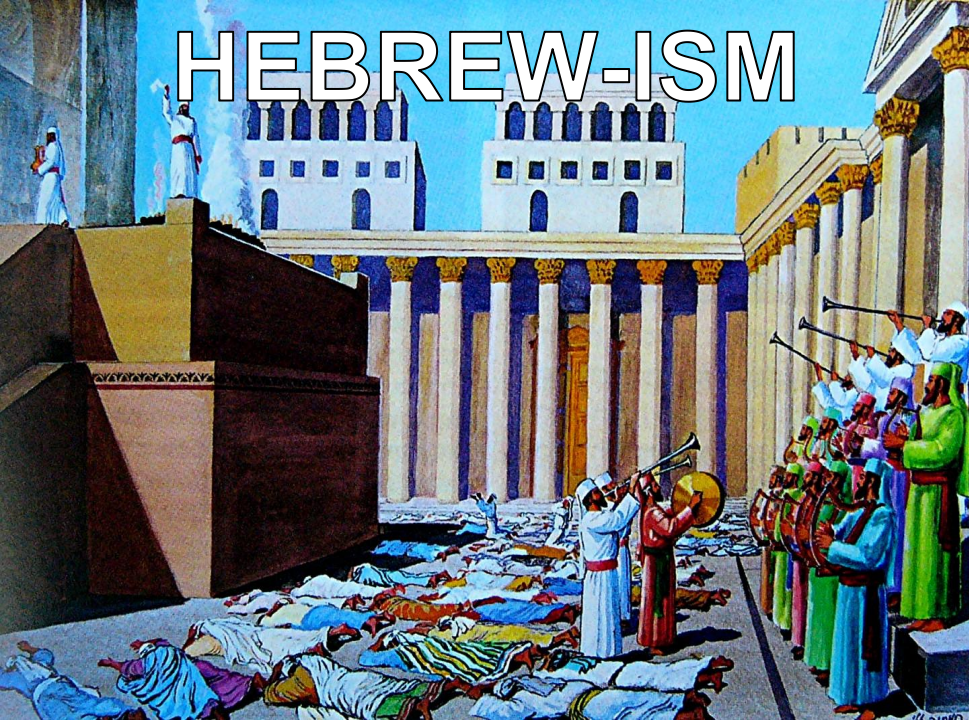
- Reading God's Word, taking it as it's written, and adding the historical and cultural context provides the truth
- Esther was not an abused victim, rather she adapted quickly to being Queen of Persia and was loved by the King
- Mordechai was not in poverty or oppressed, rather he was Jewish royalty and held a position in the Persian government.

# MEANING OF TERMS CHANGE

- When Bible says meal, it doesn't mean breakfast, lunch & dinner
- It means ground grain
- Judaism is a religion
- A Jew is an identity
- What makes a person a Jew has changed over time
- Gentile Persians opted to become Jews out of fear
- What did being a Jew mean to Esther and Mordechai?



# HEBREW-ISM



# JUDAH - ISM



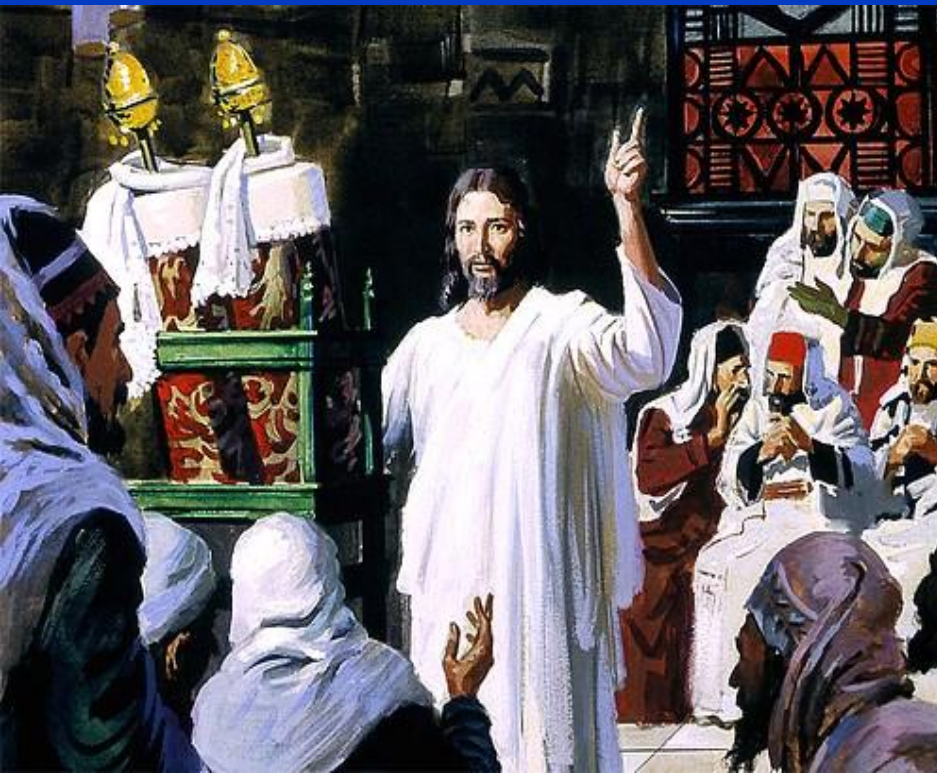
# JEW OR JUDAHITE?

- Anachronism = term used in later time is applied to an earlier time
- The term “Jew” didn’t exist until after exile
- Judah-ite first meant member of the TRIBE of Judah
- Later it meant citizen of the KINGDOM of Judah

# JEWISH LEADERS FILLED THE VOID



- Prayer for atonement
- Synagogues the place to assemble to worship God
- Judaism and synagogue system formed in exile
- Persia became the home of these Jews
- When some returned to Judah, Judaism and synagogue concept followed them back
- Yeshua and Paul regularly taught in synagogues



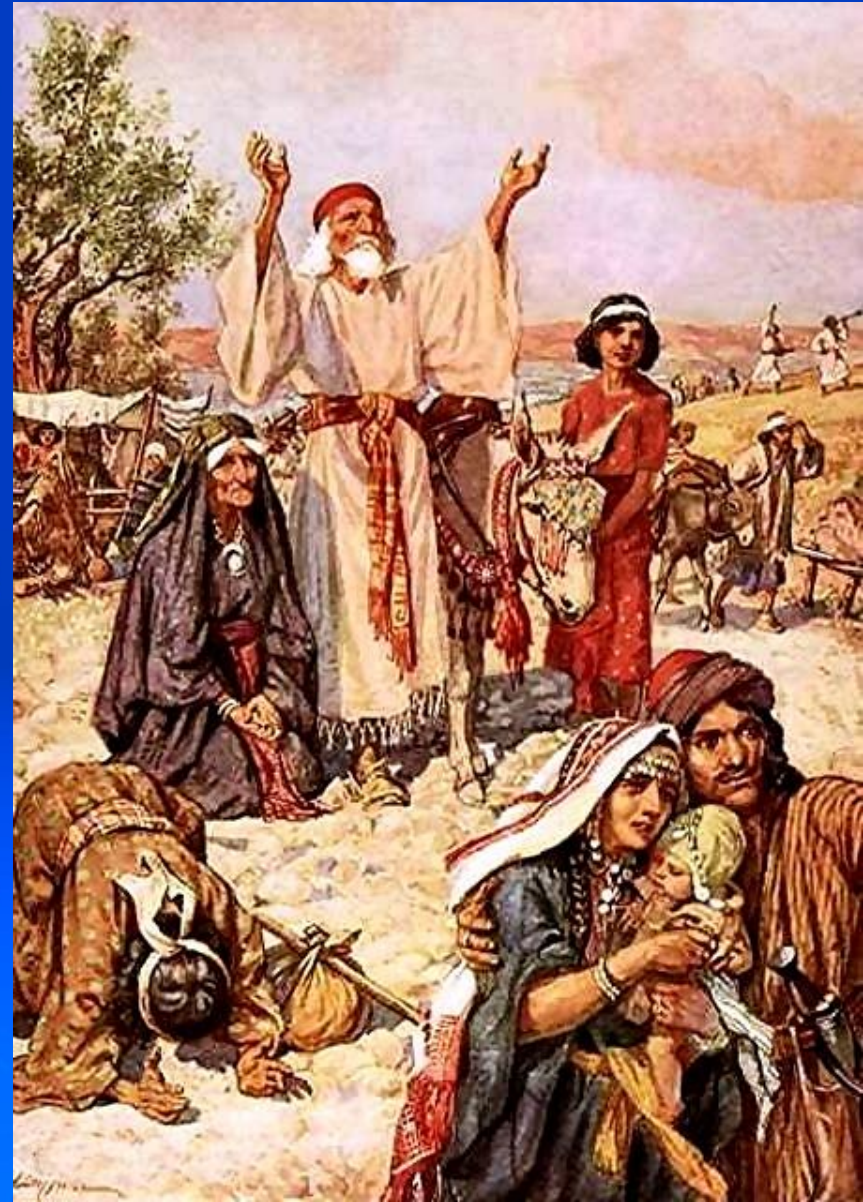
# OLDEST SYNAGOGUES

- Oldest ever found is in Stobi, Macedonia 350 BC
- Next oldest in Egypt from 300 BC
- Oldest synagogue in Israel near Jericho 70 BC
- Judaism and synagogue were responses to manmade circumstances
- Christianity also a manmade response to a goal of creating a gentiles-only religion to exclude Jews



# ONLY THE MOST SPIRIT-FILLED JEWS RETURNED TO JUDAH

- These Jews wanted to rebuild the Temple and re-establish true biblical worship
- Most of the Diaspora Jews preferred Judaism and the synagogue
- A constant battle for preeminence began between Temple and synagogue
- Persian converts did NOT follow Laws of Moses, move to Judah or long for the Temple to be rebuilt
- Neither did most of the Jewish exiles of Persia



# ESTHER CHAPTER 9: THE JEWS TURN THE TABLES



- Jews triumphed as they killed 75,000 Persians
- This means many Persians ignored the 2<sup>nd</sup> edict
- **Saneh** = intense hatred
- Battle commenced on Adar 13 in the 127 districts
- Persian commanders and government leaders sided with the Jews
- They served a Jewish Queen and a Jewish Chancellor

# THE ACROPOLIS OF SUSA



- Vs. 6 says that 500 Persians were killed in the “capital” of Susa (the Acropolis)
- Acropolis was the royal part of the city, like the City of David was the royal part of Jerusalem
- In the lower non-capital part of Susa 300 more people were killed the next day, Adar 14<sup>th</sup>
- Haman’s sons FIRST executed, THEN ordered to be impaled on poles



# PORTIONS

- **Manah** = portions, parts
- Romans 11:16
- Love gifts
- Purim to honor the days of Adar 14, 15
- The Lord has NOT eliminated the right to our self defense !!
- The Jews could only attack those who unjustly attacked them
- Turn the other cheek was about insults, shame and honor
- Yeshua would have agreed with the Jews' self-defense of life and limb in Persia



## Adar

אָדָר  
אָדָר

13

Fast of  
Esther

14

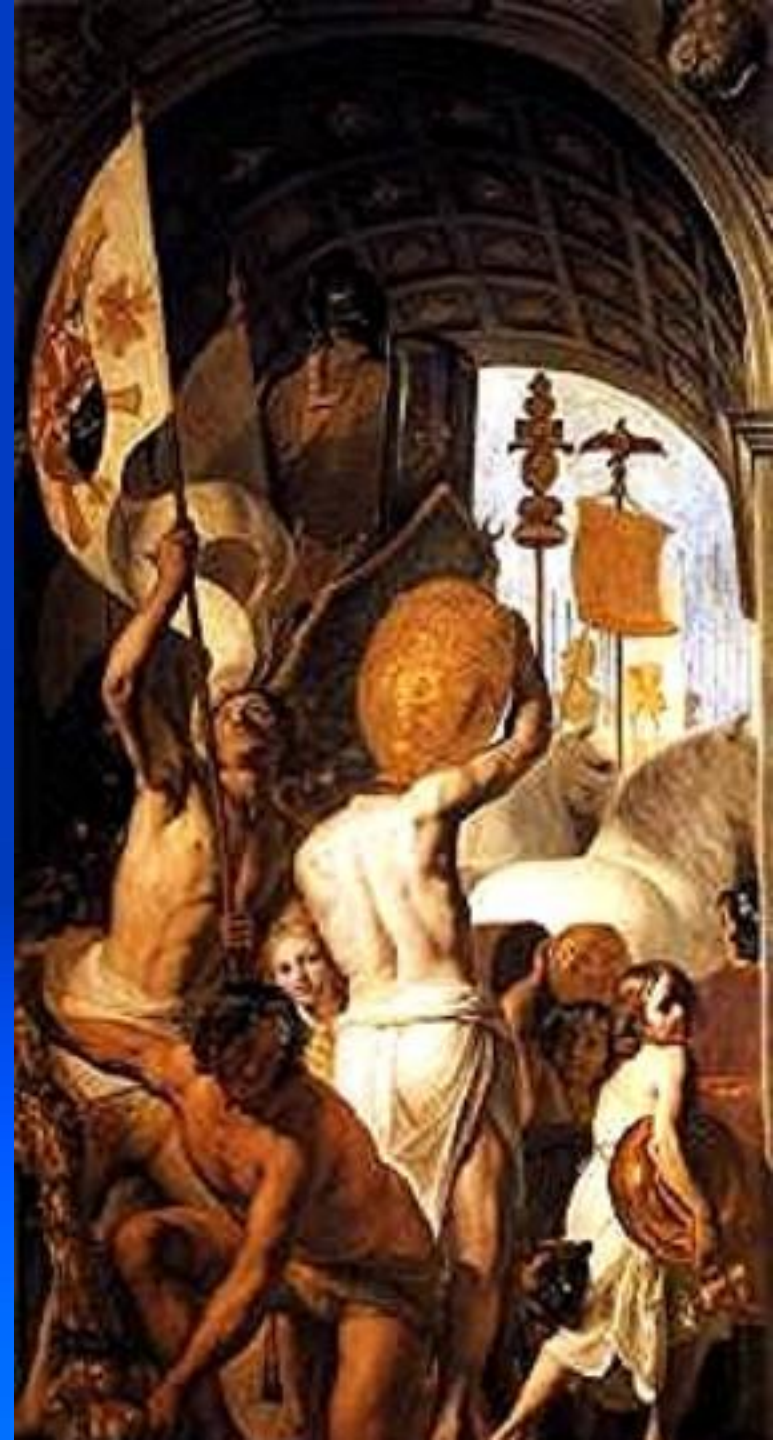
Purim

15

Sushan  
Purim

# A HOLY WAR

- Final part of chapter 9 instructs on the holiday commemoration of Purim
- Passivity is not tolerated. God's Word tells us how to proceed and what our boundaries are
- Sometimes we have to do risky things, or things that don't make us popular
- Jews did NOT take the spoils from the dead Persians, even though the decree allowed them to do so
- Law of Herem is that in Holy War all spoils belong to God
- No doubt the Persians were impressed by the Jews' refusal to loot their former neighbors



# ESTHER CHAPTER 10: A HAPPY ENDING



- King taxes all his subjects, not just some
- **Mas** = taxes and forced labor
- Writing was not yet universal
- Written things carried great importance, immortalized those written about
- Mordechai's countrymen are said to be the Persians
- This is home, now
- No burning desire of the Jews to return to Judah
- However some Jews felt differently and led by Ezra would return to their homeland

