I. Chronology and theology again connect in the book of Esther.

 A. Esther’s story begins 100 years after Jerusalem was sacked.

 B. Esther is 54 years after Zerubbabel led Israelites back.

 C. Esther is 25 years before Ezra led the second group back to Jerusalem.

II. Esther never mentions God’s name; however, we see His hand in history.

 A. This omission is indicative of what the spiritual temperature is among the Jews.

 B. Slavery never looked so good.

 C. This is the rest of the story of those who disobeyed and remained in Babylon.

III. Esther allows the two-pronged theme of the Bible to be clearly recognized.

 A. The explanation and exposition of man’s nature is center stage.

 B. The explanation and exposition of God’s nature is portrayed behind the scenes.

IV. Esther allows the single subject of the Bible to be clearly recognized.

 A. The faces of redemption are seen in each character.

 1. King Xerxes’ power and wealth create a backdrop for redemption.

 a. The banquet of all banquets has a purpose then and now: Esther 1

V. Enter Esther: The beauty of redemption.

 A. Mordecai and Esther were brought together through providence: Esther 2

 B. Providence shows us how God can use a beauty contest.

VI. Chapter 6 shows us that anti-Semitism is nothing new.

 A. A man named Haman portrays the lust for power and riches through politics.

 B. Haman is a stick to get Mordecai’s spiritual attention.

VII. Our 9-11 was not the first one. The Jews in captivity had their 9-11 in Chapter 4.

 A. A nation’s spiritual attention was awakened then as ours was on 9-11-01.

 B. “For such a time as this” is Esther’s most well-known verse.

 1.It’s a biblical watchword for providence in redemption’s plan: Compare Genesis 50:20

 C. In redemption’s plan, accidents don’t happen.

 D. Esther allows her faith to place her life on the line.

 1. Esther is a story of how faith is a process and how it grows.

 2. Queen Esther is not only beautiful, she is street savvy as well.

VIII. Chapter 6 reminds us of the power of God to even allow sleep or prevent it.

 A. God can speak in many ways to pagan and saints alike.

IX. Chapters 7 and 8 conclude this drama with one of the great twists in literature.

 A. Queen Esther proceeds from being subtle to being bold: Esther 7:6

 B. Haman portrays the deception of pride in human nature.

 C. The conclusion of redemption’s story then and now is joy and gladness: Esther 8:17