

History and the Bible

One of the big criticisms of texts like the Book of Esther is that the events cannot be confirmed by external sources like other ancient histories or inscriptions left by the figures in the narrative. These criticisms have led many scholars to *reject* the biblical narrative as true.

This kind of rejection is a logical fallacy. The vast majority of people and events throughout human history have left no evidence in the archaeological, historical, and epigraphic record. What do you know about the individuals who lived in or around the location of your home or apartment 1,000 years ago? Does that mean those people did not exist? Obviously not. *The absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.*

Almost all of the historical evidence we have for the Persian kings comes not from Persia but from Greece. Writers like Xenophon of Athens and Ctesias of Cnidas lived and worked in the Persian palace, but their access was quite limited. The Persian kings rarely named their wives in their inscriptions, and there is good reason to believe that almost all of the evidence we have has been “sanitized” by the rulers and is hardly objective.

It is true that there is no *external evidence* for Persian queens named Vashti or Esther, but there is also no evidence demonstrating that they did not exist either. Given the accuracy with which the Book of Esther portrays the Persian court and its customs, the simplest and most direct conclusion is to accept the narrative as historical.

Financial Summary

2023 Budget	\$224,885	Budget to Date	\$86,500
Weekly Budget	\$4,325	Giving to Date	\$92,613

Thank you again to all for your generous stewardship. You can give via the offering box in the back of the sanctuary, via mail, or online at bedfordroad.org/giving.

Website: <http://bedfordroad.org>
Phone: (603) 424-9623

Email: info@bedfordroad.org
Mail: PO Box 443, Merrimack, NH



*Creating environments where people
encounter Jesus and journey together*

© 1992, Geoff Bullock, CCLI 917491

© 1996, Don Harris and Gary Sadler, CCLI 2037688

- Missions Update: Bill Paige -

© 1992, Rich Mullins and David (Beaker) Strasser, CCLI# 915125

- Lord's Table -

- Exploring the Scriptures Together -

Bible Study Update

The Tuesday and Wednesday Bible studies will be taking a break for the summer. Tuesday (Ray Pouliot and Mike Trask) meets this week (5/23) and then will be off until September. Wednesday will meet this week (5/24) and next (5/31), and then be off until September.

May

- 21 Music Team Meeting, after worship.
23 Last Meeting for Tuesday Bible Study until the autumn.

June

- 3 Southern NH Rescue Mission, see Eric Wittenberg for details.
4 God's Backyard Meeting for Volunteers and Parents, after the
worship gathering
18 Father's Day

Seven Banquets in Persia

“Two Feasts in Haman’s Honor” (Esther 5:1~7:10)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The Big Idea:

Nursery is provided 9:30-11:30am for children ages 0-3.
On the first Sunday of each month, older children stay with their families.
On all other weeks, there is an age-appropriate teaching time for children ages 4-10.