

No Mention

Esther 1:1-12

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Esther+1%3A1-12&version=NIV>

“When these days were over, the king gave a banquet, lasting seven days, in the enclosed garden of the king’s palace, for all the people from the least to the greatest who were in the citadel of Susa.” (vs. 5)

There are places and spaces in the world where the name of Jesus is not mentioned. Places where there is no mention of God. But, we do not expect in reading through Holy Scripture, the Bible, we would find a page with no mention of God, let alone an entire book. Yet, both the books of Esther and Songs of Solomon contain no mention of God. Though the name of God is not mentioned, God is very much so present in these books. We will spend the next few weeks looking for God’s presence in the book of Esther. We begin today with the first chapter.

This first chapter is very introductory and sets us up to meet our heroine, Esther. The king we meet is not a Jew, a worshipper of the one true God. He throws a party with food, wine, and fun. Yet even in these festivities God is present. I am struck by the fact that the King takes 7 days of rest and fun which contrasts with God who works 6 days and takes the seventh day as a rest day. Knowing more of the story, I know that God will work through the events of this banquet to further God’s kingdom, but that’s getting a bit ahead. Let’s just pause with the 7 days. Seven is a number of completeness and wholeness for the Jewish people. For us as Christians it is a reminder to dedicate time to spend with God. Look for daily opportunities this week to rest and worship, to say the name of Jesus and draw close to HIM in preparation for what might be next in your life.