

**Walk Through The Bible**  
**St. Barnabas Parish**  
**Wulff and Baillou Hill Roads**  
**Nassau, New Providence,**  
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**Introduction to The Additions to the Book Of Esther**

**Introduction**

In the Greek Version of Esther there are six (6) passages which are not found in the Hebrew Text. In the Latin Version that Saint Jerome worked on from the Hebrew Text, Jerome made notes which indicated which segments came out of the Greek Text where it differed from the original Hebrew Text. Later, the Reformers of the 16<sup>th</sup> century B.C. simply removed those additions and added them to the Apocrypha. (In the Roman Catholic Old Testament the Greek additions remain to this very day.)

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the additions was threefold:

1. To add interest to the story by supplying more details
2. To provide the religious element so strangely lacking in the Hebrew Text
3. To express the anger and bitterness towards Gentile Oppressors.

In the Greek Version of the Text, the word for “God” or “Lord” occurs at least fifty times in the text along with the prayers made by the major characters in the text.

**Date:**

The Greek additions were probably added near the end of the second or the beginning of the first century B.C. during the time of or shortly after the reign of Antiochus IV.

What are the additions???

Addition A: Esther 11:1-12:6 Mordecai’s Dream of trouble for the Jews

Addition B: Esther 13:1-7 The Text of the Letter to Slaughter the Jews

Addition C: Esther 13:8-14:19 The prayers of Mordecai and Esther

Addition D: Esther 15:1-16 Esther's Approach to the King

Addition E: Esther 16:1-24 The Counter Edict

Addition F: Esther 10:4-11:1 Mordecai's Dream is Explained

We will only be covering the additions to see what value they add to the Book of Esther.

**1. *Esther 11:1-12:6 Mordecai's Dream of trouble for the Jews***

- a. 2-12 Mordecai has a dream of utter confusion and noises. Two dragons arise and they are ready to fight. Because of their "noise" the other nations are bent on preparing war against "the Righteous Nation." The "Righteous Nation" appears to be facing the odds, even being ready to perish!!! They cry out to God and He allows an insignificant little spring to turn into a river that overwhelms their enemies. Instead of darkness there is light, instead of being the lowly one, they are exalted. Mordecai is left pondering what this possibly can mean.
- b. 12:1-6 God already begins to work His purpose and plan out by allowing Mordecai to overhear the plot on the king's life. The matter is reported to the King and Mordecai is honored by him, but hated by Haman.

**2. *Esther 13:1-7 The Text of the Letter to Slaughter the Jews***

- a. 1-2 Once again we see a gentile king believing that he is the source of peace and tranquility among the nations that make up his kingdom.
- b. 3-5 The king's judgment is clouded by the advice that is given. The Jews are perceived as a hostile people whose laws are contrary to the other nations. Their life-style has even caused them to behave differently than the rest of the world. They are accused of being the ones who bring instability to the empire.
- c. 6-7 The influence of Haman results in the king's letter ordering the utter destruction of the Jewish people. A false premise has led to a false conclusion.

**3. *Esther 13:8-14:19 The prayers of Mordecai and Esther***

- a. 13:8-18 Mordecai's prayer takes the form of a typical Jewish prayer. He is convinced that when the Lord's will is set to save His people, nothing can change the outcome. Mordecai has aroused the anger of Haman by not bowing down to him. Mordecai says that it was not done out of pride, but to ensure that only God receives the glory. His cry is for God to show mercy.

- b. 14:1-19 Esther's prayer is in response to her fears about her safety. She humbles herself before her God and cries for help. She realizes that the nation's sins have brought them to where they are. She prays for courage.

**4. Esther 15:1-16 Esther's Approach to the King**

- a. 1-6 Determined to see her husband unannounced, Esther makes sure that she puts on her finery and makes ready to make her entrance.
- b. 7-16 Initially the king is angered by her appearance unannounced into his present, but after she faints, God changes his spirit, and he extends his scepter to her and her maids. She faints again much to the annoyance of her husband.

**5. Esther 16:1-24 The Counter Edict**

- a. 1-6 The second edict spells out the danger of allowing pride to become a destructive force in the life of kingdom. While some may think they will get away with it, there is a God above who sees and knows everything.
- b. 7-14 The king assures his subjects that in the future he will examine the matter brought before him with greater care to ensure that harm is not done to any in his realm.
- c. 15-24 While the laws cannot be changed, the king advises his people that they would do well not to follow the plot and plan of Haman. Instead they are encouraged to show their solidarity with the Jews on the day in question by providing them with protection.

**6. Esther 10:4-11:1 Mordecai's Dream is Explained**

- a. The Lord has fulfilled the dream that He gave to Mordecai. He has rescued His people by a small stream and delivered His people who have cried out to Him. At the end of the day Purim will be celebrated!!!