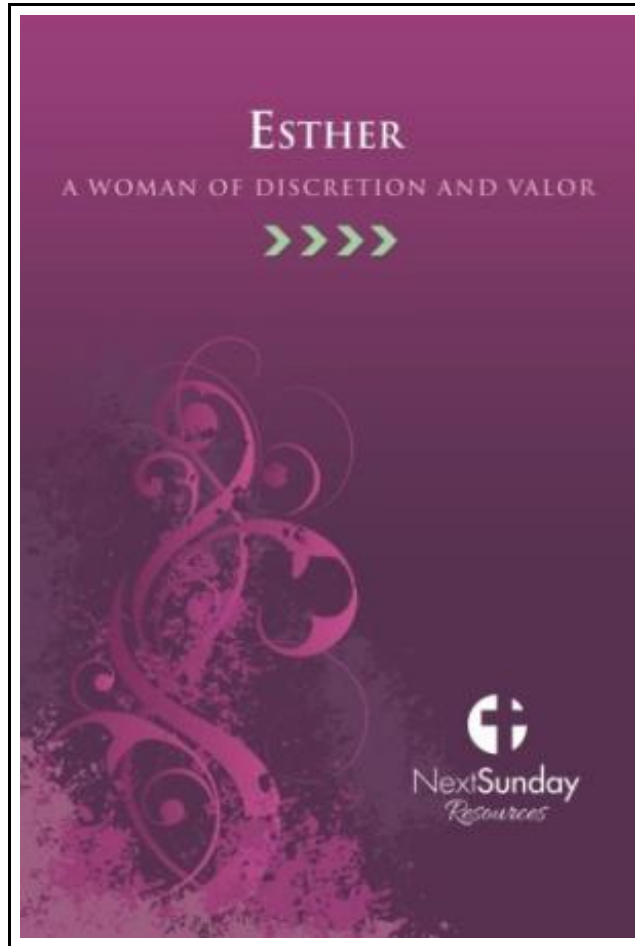


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Reviews

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(Prof. Antone Olson II)

ESTHER: A WOMAN OF DISCRETION AND VALOR



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Nextsunday Resources, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 220 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Some five centuries before Christ, the biblical narrative travels east, out of Israel to the kingdom of Persia-modern-day Iran. King Ahasuerus, or Xerxes, ruled the Middle East and the Persian Gulf at the apex of world domination. God's people, the Jews, were in exile, yanked violently away from their homeland. There, in a foreign land, one of the great stories of Jewish deliverance unfolds, precipitated by a beautiful young woman named Esther. The account that bears Esther's name is one of the more enigmatic books of the Old Testament. Once part of the Kethubim or miscellaneous writings of Judaism, it was one of the last books admitted into the canon of Scripture, and only then with editorial adjustment. Why the delay? First, a clear candidate for authorship has never emerged. More importantly, God is not mentioned anywhere in the entire volume. This is a unique characteristic of Esther when compared to the other biblical writings. Nevertheless, this appears to be the author's intent, whoever he or she may have been: invoked or not invoked, God is present. The book of Esther is not a record of historical facts as such. Rather, it is a magnificent narrative that refuses to interpret life as being driven by coincidence or happenstance. While the silence of God is all too normative for life, this does not mean God is not nearby or actively at work behind the scenes. In the otherwise unknown characters of Esther, Haman, and Mordecai, we trace the movement of the divine hand as God collaborates with God's risk-taking people to rescue them from the hand of their enemies. At the conclusion of the...



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