

Winter 2022 Exegesis Exam

Ministry Context

Esther 4:1–17

You are leading an adult Bible study series on leaders in the Bible. This week you plan to consider Queen Esther. The focus of your sixty-minute Bible study is Esther 4:1–17.

Section I: Language, Historical Situation, and Scriptural and Theological Context

Language of the Text

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

First Required Response

Discuss the defining characteristics of one of the several genres of the book of Esther that have been proposed by scholars.

Explain how your discussion of the genre informs your interpretation of Esther 4:1–17. *Limit your response to 600 words.*

Language of the Text

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

Second Required Response

Parse and translate וַתִּתְחַלֵּק in Esther 4.4; discuss the stem you identified in your parsing.

Discuss the meaning of two other stems of the verb in וַתִּתְחַלֵּק from Old Testament passages outside of the book of Esther.

Explain how your findings inform your interpretation of Esther 4:1–17. *Limit your response to 600 words.*

Historical Situation

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

Third Required Response

Describe features of the book of Esther that suggest a time of composition different from that given in Esther 1:1 (“in the days of Ahasuerus”).

Explain how your findings inform your understanding of Esther 4:1–17. *Limit your response to 600 words.*

Scriptural and Theological Context

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

Fourth Required Response

Discuss the relationship between penitential practices and hope in 2 Samuel 12:21–23; Joel 2:12–14; Jonah 3:8–9; and Esther 4:14–16.

Explain how your findings inform your interpretation of Esther 4:1–17. *Limit your response to 600 words.*

Section II: Careful and Critical Interpretation

Write an essay presenting your interpretation of Esther 4:1–17 based on your full exegetical study of the passage (not just material presented in Section I). Support your interpretation by a careful and critical analysis of the text that reflects the use of scholarly resources. *Limit your essay to 1,200 words.*

This essay must *focus on the biblical text* and provide a basis for your application in Section III: Application. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section II.

Section III:

Application

Provide an outline or summary of themes for your sixty-minute Bible study on Esther 4:1–17 that addresses the required ministry context. Your work must be based on your careful and critical interpretation of the biblical text presented in Section II. *Limit your work to 600 words.*

Your response to Section III *must* address the ministry context.

Works Cited

In the text box below, provide a list of all resources cited in your exam responses. Do not include in this list any Internet link that indicates a seminary library or commercial bibliographic database that is available only through subscription or library account (e.g., <https://ezproxy.presbysem.edu/>).