

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910831056703321
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Titolo	Esther through the centuries [[electronic resource] /] / Jo Carruthers
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Malden, MA ; ; Oxford, : Blackwell Pub., 2008
ISBN	1-118-71404-0 1-281-31893-0 9786611318932 0-470-69191-3 0-470-69123-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (322 p.)
Collana	Blackwell Bible commentaries
Disciplina	222 222.90709 222/.90709
Soggetti	Christianity
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [280]-295) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Esther Through the Centuries; Contents; List of Plates; Series Editors' Preface; Acknowledgements; Introduction; Why Reception?; An Irredeemable Book?; Jewish Tradition; Christian Tradition; Summary of Works; Godless Scripture; Allegory; Providence, Chosenness, Nationhood; Political Application; Esther as Literature; Esther 1:1-9; 1:1 The King and Empire; 1:3 The King's Feast; 1:4 Display of Wealth; 1:8 No Compulsion to Drink; 1:9 Women's Feast; Vashti; Esther 1:10-22; 1:12 Disobedience; 1:13-22 The Empire Strikes Back; 1:19 Vashti's Punishment; 1:22 The Decree; Esther 2:1-7 2:1 The King Remembers Vashti2:2-4 To the Harem; 2:5-6 Mordecai; 2:7 Hadassah- Esther; Esther 2:8-23; 2:8-14 Esther in the Harem; 2:15 Esther's Beauty; 2:16-18 Esther Becomes Queen; Esther 3; 3:1 Haman; 3:2 'But Mordecai did not bow down'; 3:7 Casting Lots; 3:8 (Mis) Representing Jews: A People Set Apart; 3:8 Evil Counsellors; 3:12-15 Genocidal Edicts; 3:15 'The King and Haman sat down to drink'; Esther 4:1-14; 4:1-3 'Great mourning among the Jews'; 4:4-14 Esther and Mordecai Confer; 4:14 'From another quarter'; Esther 4:15-17; 4:15 'Fast ye for me'; 4:16 'If I perish, I perish'

Esther as Exemplar of Resolve 4:17 'Mordecai [. . .] did everything as Esther had ordered him'; Esther 5; Esther before Ahasuerus; 5:4-8 Esther's First Banquet; 5:9-14 Haman's Wrath; Esther 6; The King's Sleeplessness; 6:11 The Triumph of Mordecai; Esther 7 and 8; 7:1-6 Esther's Second Banquet; 7:7-8 Haman's Fate; 8:1-6 'How can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?'; 8:7-14 The Irreversible Decree; 8:15-17 'The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour'; Esther 9 and 10; 9:2 Scenes of Slaughter; 9:7-10 Ten Sons of Haman; 9:26 Purim 9:29 & 32 'Then Esther the Queen . . . wrote with all authority' 10 The Greatness of Mordecai; Bibliography; Primary Sources; Pre- 1500; 1500-1800; Post- 1800; Esther Secondary Sources; Other Secondary Sources; Index

Sommario/riassunto

This interdisciplinary commentary ranges from early midrashic interpretation to contemporary rewritings introducing interpretations of the only biblical book not to mention God. Unearths a wealth of neglected rewritings inspired by the story's relevance to themes of nationhood, rebellion, providence, revenge, female heroism, Jewish identity, exile, genocide and 'multiculturalism' Reveals the various struggles and strategies used by religious commentators to make sense of this only biblical book that does not mention God Asks why Esther is underestimated by contemp
