

Ruth, Song of Songs, Lamentations, and Esther Esther – Part 1

Interpreting the Text:

1. The book of Esther is an entertaining book, featuring elements of dramatic irony and humor. Did you notice anything particularly “funny” about Esther’s narrative? Do you agree that this book could be read as a comedy? Why or why not?
2. Can you think of any other examples where satire has been used to cope with political oppression (contemporary, biblical, or otherwise)? What similarities and/or differences do you see between those examples and Esther’s story?
3. Dr. Baden and Dr. Vayntrum describe this book as “especially Jewish.” How do you think this story was told or read by Jewish people in the diaspora? How does this book read like a heroic legend?

Applying the Text:

1. Dr. Baden claims that part of this book's appeal is that one can read it from a number of different perspectives. Where do you see yourself in this story?
2. This book is often used in children’s ministry as it features positive values: bravery, honesty, and justice. How would you use this book to empower young people in your church or community? What parts would you emphasize? What parts might you struggle to explain?