

1. What are some considerations to keep in mind regarding the literary and historical setting of *The Book of Esther*?
2. What are some of the fears associated with Diaspora era writings and the circumstances of being in exile?
3. Why is the Hellenistic period a good choice for the origin of *Esther*?
4. Describe some of the elements of the celebration known as “Purim.”
5. Dr. Wolfe suggests that *Esther* may be a “self-defense fantasy.” Explain.

6. How do the multiple versions of *Esther* inform your understanding of “canon” and the authority of the Bible?

7. Share some of thoughts regarding the violence of the *Book of Esther*.

8. Knowing that we’ll revisit these questions at the end of the study, describe your first thoughts on Dr. Wolfe’s questions:

-- Where is God in this story?

-- Does this book belong in the Bible?

9. What are the implications of this session’s material for your personal life? Your spiritual journey? For your local faith community?

