

For *Such* a Time as This

Intercessor

Book of Esther

Key Verse: Esther 4:14 “Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

Into: The book of Esther is the Story of Esther’s life – the orphan who became queen of a world empire
For the uninformed reader ... she’s one of those people who just happened to be in the right place at the right time but this is no Cinderella story

Esther wakes one morning to find herself facing the dilemma – do I remain quiet and save myself or let hundreds of thousands of her people be slaughtered (genocide)

In this story Esther will go from a sex symbol prayer intercessor

There’s a long history of killing men and women who are representatives of the living God.

The idea is always the same if you kill people who worship God it gets rid of God himself.

- One of these was the 1994 Rwandan genocide - 800,000 slaughtered

Read - “For this I have Jesus,” *Daily Bread*

The book of Esther is five centuries before the birth of Jesus – 1400 years after Abraham
King Xerxes ruled a world empire stretching from India to Ethiopia

Three main characters

- Mordecai, the leader of a Jewish community living in the capital city of Susa - he is solid, faithful, sane, godly
- Haman is the evil and arrogant the mastermind behind a plot to kill Mordecai and all the Jews in the kingdom.
- Esther is Mordecai’s young, orphaned and ravishing cousin whom he raised. She rises from the shadows to become Queen

Let me Summarize the story

- King Xerxes holds a Miss America beauty pageant to select a replacement for his deposed queen
- Esther becomes the chosen one ...

Esther Chapter 2: 15- 18

¹⁵ When it was Esther's turn to go to the king, she won the admiration of everyone who saw her.¹⁷⁻¹⁸ The king fell in love with Esther far more than with any of his other women or any of the other virgins—he was totally smitten by her. He placed a royal crown on her head and made her queen in place of Vashti.

There were possibly hundreds of beautiful women in this pageant – but there was something about Esther that separated her from the rest - she had a beautiful spirit



In my teenage years I met a girl named Audrey – There was nothing outstanding about her looks –but the longer I knew her better looking she got! The person inside made the person outside beautiful.

I've experienced the opposite; one outwardly stunning girl who became less and less attractive the more I got to know her

Esther had an inward beauty that captivated people – that speaks of her relationship with God.

God living inside of you, it affects who you are ...he becomes visible in your eyes and smile. People have admiration for you, just as they did Esther.

Meanwhile back at the ranch ... her uncle Mordecai foils an assassination plot against Xerxes but never gets the credit.

And Haman ... a slithering snake of a politician – is appointed the highest ranking govt. official in the kingdom requiring everyone but the king to kneel in his presence –

He hates Mordecai who refuses to bow to him – and carefully spin a web of deceit which he presents to the King

Esther chapter 3: 8- 11

⁸⁻⁹ Haman then spoke with King Xerxes: “There is an odd set of people scattered through the provinces of your kingdom who don't fit in. Their customs and ways are different from those of everybody else. Worse, they disregard the king's laws. They're an affront; the king shouldn't put up with them. If it please the king, let orders be given that they be destroyed. I'll pay for it myself. I'll deposit 375 tons of silver in the royal bank to finance the operation.”

¹⁰ The king slipped his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman ... archenemy of the Jews. ¹¹ “Go ahead,” the king said to Haman. “It's your money—do whatever you want with those people.”

So the man who saved the king's life, Mordecai, is to be butchered – impaled on pole while the rat Haman who seeks nothing but his own interests is rewarded and honored by the King.

These are the things in life that prompts us to question God, because outward conditions cry foul, unfair even worse that God is uncaring.

Sometimes life seems like its spiraling out of control and there's nothing we can do about it

Situations can look hopeless ... Our faith and trust in God is under fire – we are being tested big time

Isaiah 49:13 - 15

¹³Shout for joy, you heavens, rejoice, you earth burst into song, you mountains! For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. ¹⁴ but Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, the LORD has forgotten me." ¹⁵ "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she had borne? Though she may forget I will not forget you! ¹⁶ See, I have engraved you on the psalms of my hands ...

Life can delivers a devastating blow but they're not always natural sometimes they are spiritual

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Haman's Plans for Jewish genocide was Spiritual Warfare the kind we read about in

☆ Several weeks ago our daughter Heather who so many have been praying for received news that took the breath out of us once again.

- Three lumps on her throat – nodules
- Sonogram confirmed them– all if this while still undergoing chemo treatment - Doctors said did not believe they were cancerous
- A needle biopsy was ordered for definitive results

On day of biopsy the tech examined her neck and announced there were no nodules and that the painful procedure was unnecessary.

Isaiah 49:15, 16 "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she had borne? Though she may forget I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the psalms of my hands ...

Was the verse that God has given to Heather several times as a promise of His love and involvement

When bad news strikes ... we want to fix it, reverse course and escape from it

But God will use it as an opportunity to work through

Isaiah 59:19 "...When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him."

absolute doom threatened Esther and her people

Esther : 12-17

¹²⁻¹⁴ When Esther sent word to Mordecai that she would die if she approached the King

He sent back this message: "Don't think that just because you live in the king's house you're the one Jew who will get out of this alive. If you persist in staying silent at a time like this, help and deliverance will arrive for the Jews from someplace else; but you and your family will be wiped out. Who knows? Maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this."

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Esther sent back her answer to Mordecai: "Go and get all the Jews living in Susa together. Fast for me. Don't eat or drink for three days, either day or night. I and my maids will fast with you. If you will do this, I'll go to the king, even though it's forbidden. If I die, I die."

¹⁷ Mordecai left and carried out Esther's instructions.

It's easy to miss the main point of this story ... God had preemptively- invisibly set up everything in advance to stop this disaster – beginning with Esther becoming queen because of her beauty

But success hinged on wisdom and courage to seek God in intercessory prayer to bring those plans to reality!!!

It was not just Mordecai or Esther who was praying but all the Jews of the City of Susa

The Results:

- Xerxes in a sleepless night did some late night reading,
- discovers His Mordecai who saved his life ...
- Haman's evil plot is turned back on himself impaled on the pole he had built for Mordecai and the Jews throughout the providence are saved by King's decree

God strategically places his people where they can be best used but it's the stirrings of trouble that so often brings His plan to light

Edmund Burke... **"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."**

If you care about the future of your family

If you care about the people of your community – of our nation

You can do something about it ... there are all kinds of ways to help so many Christian organizations are trying to stem the tide of education and overreaching government and that is hostile to the Bible

But none will be successful without prayer and fasting (the community of Jews prayed with Ester)

Sunday morning – corporate prayer a great place to begin

Think of the challenges that you face at this moment and write these words beside each one as a reminder of His faithfulness and care: “For this, I have Jesus.”

Let's pray