

Queen Esther - For such a time as this

Esther 4:11-16

Esther's Background and Rise

Esther's Humble Beginnings

- Esther (Hadassah): Jewish exile in Susa.
- Orphan raised by cousin Mordecai.
- No status, no power, no path to royalty.

Vashti Removed

- Xerxes demands Vashti appear before his nobles “to display her beauty.” She refuses; an unthinkable act in Persia.
- Advisors fear widespread unrest → Vashti removed.
A new queen must be chosen.

Esther Taken Into the Search - Esther 2:8-9

- Esther is *taken* – swept into events beyond her control.
- Finds unusual favor as God’s unseen hand moves her.

Esther Becomes Queen – Esther 2:17

- Mordecai warns her to conceal her Jewish identity.
- Esther rises – but does not yet know why.

The Crisis Begins - Esther 3:1–6

- Haman elevated; opposing him = opposing the throne.
- Mordecai refuses to bow — שָׁחָה (shākhāh) often tied to worship.
- Haman 'filled with wrath' — וַיִּימָלֵא (vayyimmālē' ḥēmāh).

Haman's Decree (Esther 3:8–15)

- Identity of Jews hidden.
- Xerxes acts impulsively.
- Persian law is irrevocable — only counter-decrees.

Esther's Fear (Esther 4:11)

- “One law” = **תִּחְאֵל תִּ** (dat aḥat) - unbending rule.
- Entering = already condemned unless spared.
- 30 days without summons → distance and danger.

Mordecai's Challenge (Esther 4:13–14)

Mordecai's Truths:

- 1. Silence will not save you.
- 2. God will deliver His people.
- 3. You were placed here on purpose.

Esther's Resolve (Esther 4:16)

- “If I perish, I perish.”
- אֲשֶׁר אֲבַדְתִּי אֲבַדְתִּי (ka’ăsher ’ābadti ’ābadti) — full surrender.
- Echo of Genesis 43:14b (NASB)
 - “...And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.”

God's Deliverance

- King Xerxes receives Esther.
- Haman is exposed and executed.
- Counter-decree issued to allow defense.
- Mordecai elevated to Haman's position.
- The Jewish feast of Purim established.

God's Providence

- Romans 8:28 (NASB)
 - “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”
- There is no luck, only God's providence.
- God arranges details long before we see them.

Right Place, Right Time

- Faithfulness is costly:
 - Risk
 - Loss of control
 - Uncertainty
 - No recognition
- But God sees and uses these moments
- Don't be in the wrong place at the wrong time.
- For Christians every day may be a “right place, right time” from God.