

Character Study: Esther
Part 2 – “For Such a Time as This”
Esther 3-4

What’s happening?

- King Ahasuerus placed a man, named Haman, in a high position in his kingdom and commanded everyone to bow before him. Mordecai, however, refused to bow before him, which made Haman furious. Instead of just punishing Mordecai, Haman determined to kill all the Jews. (3:1-6)
- Haman, upset over the incident with Mordecai, told the king that the Jewish people did not keep the king’s laws. Haman convinced the king to send out a decree that on a certain day all the Jews should be killed. Copies of the decree were sent out to all the providences. (3:7-15)
- Hearing about the decree, Mordecai, Queen Esther, and all the Jews were in deep distress. Mordecai asked Esther to plead to the king on their behalf. Esther was leery because anyone who went before the King without being requested could be killed. Mordecai told her to consider that she may have been placed there “for such a time as this.” (4:1-14)
- Esther requested that the Jews fast and pray for her for three days. She said that she would approach the King, even if it meant she may be killed. (4:15-17)

What’s God doing?

> Mordecai was faithful to God and would not bow before Haman. As a result, the Jews were going to face persecution and death. However, God was already at work. He had placed Esther in a position of authority to be a voice for her countrymen.

What’s to learn?

→ Mordecai was doing what he knew was right, and the Jews now faced horrible consequences because of it. Do things ever seem to blow up and quickly get out of control in your life? Mordecai needed to see that God was in control, even when in the midst of chaos.

→ Esther came to realize that God very well may have placed her in the position of Queen for the very purpose of delivering His people. Do you ever consider how God is working around you? When He opens doors to use you, are you willing to go through them?

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