

FAITH CHURCH
WOMEN'S RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 6-7

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS



Esther
4: 14

“If you keep quiet at this time, liberation and protection for the Jews will appear from another source, while you and your father’s household perish. It may very well be that you have achieved royal status for such a time as this!”

Esther 4:14



The BOOK of ESTHER

- Name of God is never mentioned
- Told from a naturalistic, secular perspective
- We must “read between the lines” to see God’s hand of providence



The BOOK of ESTHER

The Main Characters:



Esther: Hebrew name was Hadassah, meaning Myrtle. She was an orphaned Jewish girl living in the city of Suza, capitol of the Persian Empire.

Mordecai: Esther's cousin, who raised her after the death of her parents. He was a Jewish exile who was descended from the tribe of Benjamin.

Ahasuerus: Greek name was Xerxes, emperor of Persia from 486-465 BC.

Haman: A descendant of Agag, and a counselor of the King. Genocidal narcissist.

The BOOK of ESTHER

Outline of Events:



- Queen Vashti displeases King Ahasuerus and is banned from his presence.
- Virgins from throughout Persia are taken to the palace to find a replacement queen. Esther is one of them. Mordecai warns her not to tell anyone she's Jewish. Esther is chosen as queen.
- Mordecai uncovers an assassination plot against the king. He tells Esther, who informs the king. The treacherous guards are convicted and executed.
- Haman is promoted to the highest rank among the king's officials.
- Angered by Mordecai's refusal to bow down to him, Haman persuades the king to exterminate all the Jews by the end of the year, promising him lots of money.

- Mordecai implores Esther to plead with the King on behalf of the Jews.
- Esther warns that if she goes to the King uninvited, she could be killed. She tells Mordecai to call for a 3-day extreme fast.

- After the fast, Esther appears without being summoned. The king welcomes her and promises to give her whatever she wants.
- Mordecai is honored by the king for his role in convicting the would-be assassins.
- Esther reveals her Jewish heritage and begs the king to block Haman's extermination plot. The king orders Haman's execution.
- Esther persuades the king to grant permission for the Jews to assemble and defend themselves against their enemies.
- Instead of being slaughtered, the Jews experience a great victory.

Experiencing God

Henry T. Blackaby & Claude V. King

1. God is always at work around you
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you

Experiencing God

Henry T. Blackaby & Claude V. King

God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action



Esther's crisis of belief:

If I accept God's invitation and appear before the King without being summoned, I could be killed.

Her response of Faith and Action:

“Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ‘Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast on my behalf. Don’t eat and don’t drink for three days, night or day. My female attendants and I will also fast in the same way. Afterward I will go to the king, even though it violates the law. If I perish, I perish.’” Esther 4:15-16



Mordecai calls on Esther to get involved. Through Mordecai, God is inviting Esther to join Him in the work He is going to do to rescue the Jews.

If she refuses God's invitation, Mordecai is confident that God will still accomplish that work. He has faith to believe that God will keep His promises to Abraham and to his descendants.

His warning to Esther is a warning to us all: if you refuse God's invitation, in favor of your own comfort and safety, there will be consequences.



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

My Cancer Journey



My kids circa 2000



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

My personal journey with cancer has prepared me to join God where I see Him working now, in my husband's journey with cancer.

God is inviting me to join with Him in the work He is doing to bring hope and healing to my husband, and to continue to trust that He will bring good, even out of another season of medical crisis.



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Questions to Consider:

- Where do you see God at work around you?
- How is He inviting you to join Him in the work He is doing?
- What “crisis of belief” are you facing?
- How can you respond with faith and action?

