

ESTHER “For Such a Time as This”
Bible Study on 2020/2021 Theme of Faith LCMS, Grand Blanc – 9-13-2020
By: Rev. Dr. Todd A. Biermann

King Ahasuerus I (485-465BC) (Grk. Xerxes) over all of Persia, lands India to Greece, Assyria to Ethiopia.

He was egotistical, temperamental & ruthless.

~480BC Queen Vashti rebelled (show object or worse) & was replaced by Esther (a Jew, but not known to the king).

Jews, the people of Israel, were scattered all across his kingdom.

Many Jews in capital, Susa.

Q: Was Esther wrong to be part of the beauty/sex contest to become queen?
(consider 4th Com.)

Q: Can God use your obedience to bad govt. for his good purposes?

Q: How much should we hide our Christian identity in obedience to govt.?

Haman 2nd in command to King hated Mordecai, an official in the king’s court, a Jew & Esther’s cousin, who would not bow to him.

Haman carried out a plot to have ALL Jews, including Mordecai, annihilated on 1 day 11 months from then.

Mordecai told Esther of plot & called on her to intervene w the king.

Vs. 4:14, *“For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”*

Q: What huge CHANGE was ahead for Jews?

How similar to our “*such a time as this*”?

(Lose power, possessions, life.

Us – COVID, race fight, political impact, church)

Death likely if approach king uninvited, but Esther decided to take risk after 3 days fasting & praying.

Q: What CHALLENGE for you “*for such a time as this*” if stand up for Christian faith / morals / behavior / rel. practice?

God granted her acceptance by the king and success in foiling Haman’s plan so the Jews actually destroyed their enemies rather than vice versa.

Q: What OPPORTUNITIES for you in this earthly “*kingdom for such a time as this*” if face fears / challenges for Christ?

COVID impact?

Racial issues impact?

Political conflict impact?

Church in society impact?

Esther (Heb. Root = star) came to the kingdom of Ahasuerus for that time to deliver the Jews. Esther also came to the Kingdom of the LORD in faith to be part of His plan to deliver ALL people through The greatest descendant from the Jews, Jesus!

Q: What SALVATION to the HEAVENLY “KINGDOM” can we share “*for such a time as this*”? (SEE 1 Peter 2:9 “*chosen race...proclaim the excellencies...*”)

Q: How does SALVATION in Jesus impact EVERY issue facing us?
COVID impact?
Racial issues impact?
Political conflict impact?
Church in society impact?

Q: How are you to be a PROPHET “*for such a time as this*”?
(FOREtell and FORTHtell)
(SEE Rev. 6:10 warning “*how long before you will judge & avenge our blood*”)
(SEE 2 Peter 3:9, “*Lord...is patient...that all should reach repentance.*”)

Q: What HELP does God promise you as a PROPHET “*for such a time as this*”?
(Mordecai & others fasted & prayed w Esther – FELLOW BELIEVERS)
(God is working ALL for His/our good purposes, such as Esther 6:1-10 in which King couldn't sleep, heard of Mordecai overlooked for spoiling plot, sought Haman's advice on how to honor a special man, had Haman honor Mordecai...between Esther's 2 feasts for King & Haman. ALSO, God delivered Jews from destruction in a miraculous way as they took 9 months – per “purim” = “lot” that Haman cast - to get weapons, train, prepare, destroy enemies...thus huge witness to world.)
(Promises of Scripture like Rom. 14:7-9 “*live & die to the Lord*”)

Q: How do these words of Mordecai to Esther comfort you, “*For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place*”?
(God WILL accomplish His good will whether we do our job or not, but He delights in letting us be part of his work...and sparing us from the suffering that could befall us if we resist His will for us – “*but you and your father's house will perish*”)

We have come into Jesus' kingdom for such a time as this.

Who knows whether God will not use us NOW to deliver ALL people from sin & destruction...COVID, conflict, fear, hatred, sin, death, hell!

Salvation free gift for all through Jesus! Let us NOW make Him known!