

For Such a Time as This!

Esther 2:19-4:17

“God’s Sovereignty in Everything”

We saw in our study last time: A Proud King Xerxes – Threw a Banquet – 6 months long – 15,000 people

A)Ulterior motive for the Feast – **Support for his plan to invade Greece.**

B)Toward the end of the Banquet – Drunk – Decides – Show off his Bride Beautiful Queen Vashti –

1)**Come Crown**.....Face uncovered or wearing only the crown

C)Vashti refused: Problem – Set a precedence with all the wives in the Kingdom – start telling their husbands – NO!

1)**SOLUTION - Banish her**

D)That is what King Xerxes did. –

Well he goes to War- gets defeated – coming home – Looking for some encouragement and comfort from his wife – Gone.

A)According to Persian law – she could not be reinstated. –

B)So His attendants – see that the King is downcast bummed out – Pinning - Great idea – Beauty Pageant – Find a new Queen

1)400 Virgins are gathered

C)Who is Chosen? A young beautiful Jewish Orphan named Hadassah – Esther – Taken care of by her godly uncle –Mordecai

1)Not Cinderella - Esther was not aspiring to be the Queen – BUT GOD HAD A PLAN!

D)God the Alpha and the Omega – the beginning and the end

1)HE sees the Past, the Present, and the future – ALL IN THE NOW

E)Knows what is coming and puts Esther in a position – that would be important for the Jewish people for centuries to come.

Pick up in Chapter 2:19

¹⁹ When virgins were gathered together a second

time, Mordecai sat within the king’s gate. ²⁰ Now Esther had not revealed her family and her people, just as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai as when she was brought up by him. {So even after she was chosen to be the queen – the fact that she was of Hebrew decent was still not known

²¹ In those days, while Mordecai sat within the king’s gate, two of the king’s eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, doorkeepers, became furious and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. ²² So the matter became known to Mordecai, who told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai’s name. ²³ And when an inquiry was made into the matter, it was confirmed, and both were hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

Now this little bit of information is going to serve as an important back piece to the story – Mordecai – helped thwart this assassination plot!

CH.3 After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who *were* with him. {Prime Minister Role

Now wait a second – Mordecai – just saved the king’s life – who is this guy Haman and why is he being promoted?

A)Reminder – **Life is not fair** – But God is still SOVERIGN don’t forget that point as we see the story unfold

B)Now at this point in the story we are introduced to **the Villain – Haman.**

1)Not sure why King Ahasuerus promoted him – but he was given this seat above all the Princes.

C)**His name and background are interesting.** Haman the son of Hammedatha – the Agagite.

D)Bible students should recognize that – Agagites were the descendants of a guy named Agag – King Agag- King of the Amalekites

Back in 1 Samuel 15 over 600 years before the events here in the book of Esther took place.

A)King Saul went to battle against the Amalekites

B)The Amalekites who were a brutal people – Ruthless and Devouring

1){ Throughout scripture a Picture of the Flesh

C)God’s instructions to Saul was to utterly destroy – No mercy – no prisoners –not even their livestock.

1)Amalek picture of the Flesh – it is to be destroyed – make no provision for it.

Saul went to Battle- Victorious – Coming home – disobeyed the Lord – Brought animals back to sacrifice –

A)And he brought back their wicked King Agag – as a Prisoner and sort of a trophy.

B)Samuel the Prophet comes – what is this: All these animals – Samuel asked What for? Saul said for Sacrifice

1)Samuel – to obey is better than Sacrifice.

C)Then Samuel – looks at the Prisoner – and asked – Who is that?

1)You brought a Prisoner – Who is it? SAUL said it’s Agag

D)Samuel heard that – He took a sword and Hacked Agag into pieces giving us a **visual description** of how to deal with the Flesh.

1)Swiftly and Decisively – MAKE NO PROVISION – PUT THE FLESH TO DEATH.

Samuel looked at Saul and said: Rebellion is as the sin of Witchcraft!

A)Heavy thing to consider: This event in the life of Saul would be the thing that moved God to choose another for the throne.

B)Here is what is interesting: Because Saul would not deal with Agag who represented the flesh –

1)The line of Agag continued – somehow Agag sired a son - Agagites

C)Now 600 years later – Haman who is a descendant of Agag is going to attempt to Destroy all of the Jewish people.

1)The lesson is obvious – **If I don’t destroy the flesh – the Flesh will destroy me! - REPEAT**

I Can argue for the flesh and try to justify little compromises for the flesh:

A)Oh that is not a big deal – common practices in our culture.

B)Everyone is doing it – everyone is going there – watching that.

1)It is not against the law – Medical Marijuana is legal now

C)Listen: **Make no provision for the flesh: If I don’t destroy the flesh – the Flesh will destroy me!**

Is there Something in your life the Lord has been saying: **Get rid of this!**

A)You have been procrastinating – or making excuses for it - DEAL WITH IT–

B)if you don’t - in time– it will DEAL WITH YOU.

1)Don’t destroy the flesh – the flesh will destroy you!

C)I was having this conversation today with a brother about struggling with the flesh.

We love the stories – the guy who says I was a drug addict for 30 ears God miraculously delivered me.

A)I no longer had a desire and any cravings for drugs or alcohol or whatever it might be.

B)We love those testimonies – we love those stories we rejoice in those.

1)But you know what – THOSE STORIES ARE NOT THE NORM.

C)The Norm is this: For 75% of the church A Person gets saved – makes a decision to follow Jesus

1)Still have to battle the flesh.

D)They might – still have the urge to get high

1)But they have to learn to say NO TO THE FLESH

Listen: I battle my flesh every single day

A)LEARNED THIS: Choosing to walk in obedience results in Victory.

B)People want to wait for Power to come before they move!

1)God so often says – Move – walk in obedience and the power will come.

C) My Grace is sufficient and my Power is made perfect in your weakness

The Fear of the Lord – Reverence and respect for God – that wants to follow him and honor him.

A) Job 28:28 **The fear of the Lord is true wisdom; to forsake evil is real understanding.’ ”**

➤ **The fear of the Lord is seen forsaking evil.**

B) Psalm 25:12 **Who are those who fear the Lord? He will show them the path they should choose.**

➤ **The fear of the Lord results in direction.**

C) Psalm 33:18 **But the Lord watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love.**

➤ **The fear of the Lord results in protection.**

D) How come I wasn't protected – why didn't I get the direction I was looking for?

1) Not fearing the Lord – Fear of the Lord is seen in Obedience

E) God responds to that with Power, direction, protection – transformation

1) **Cross the Jordan? Ok Part the waters – no step in**

So Haman was an Agagite - There is the Historical backdrop for the story – Huge spiritual principle

² And all the king's servants who *were* within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.

³ Then the king's servants who *were* within the king's gate said to Mordecai, “Why do you transgress the king's command?” ⁴ Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told *it* to Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for *Mordecai* had told them that he *was* a Jew.

Now why wouldn't Mordecai bow to Haman and pay him Homage?

A) Some Jewish Rabbi's believe Mordecai believed that to bow before a Persian King would **betray his allegiance to the King of kings.**

B) Some even suggest that Haman **wore a necklace** of an Idol around his neck which gave Mordecai further reason not to bow.

C) Others think it has to do with the Author making it known to us that Haman was a descendant of the Amalekites.

1) A Jew would not bow to an Amalekite.

D) Especially considering Mordecai's family background – Ch.2:16 Descendant of Kish

1) Who was the son of Kish? – King Saul

E) So some suggest that Mordecai was like I am not making the same mistake as my ancestor

1) Not bowing to an AMALEKITE

F) Which means over 600 years later – the battle is still happening!

1) **BE THAT AS IT MAY:** Mordecai doesn't bow

⁵ When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath. ⁶ But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai.

Talk about an overreaction: - Destroy All the Jews!

Here we see the ramifications of **Pride and prejudice**

A) Not the Movie – deep seated hatred – over years – that is now being fueled by a single man's pride –

B) Demonic influence here – adding to the evil.

C) This is Satanic in nature: Just like Hitler - Demonic inspiration to Kill the Jews.

D) At the time of Esther - Satan wanted to end this line of people that he knew the Messiah was going to come from.

⁷ In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, the lot), before Haman to determine the day and the month, until it fell on the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

Note: What year did he have his feast? Third year. What year was Esther made queen? Seventh year.

A) Now, we are in the 12th year – so this is **five years later. Isn't that interesting?**

B) God has had the chief characters in position for five years now.

1) Esther's been there for five years as queen, and yet, the reason for her **being there is not yet revealed.**

C) The purpose of God for her being there has not yet been fulfilled.

1) Yet, she has been there, God has her there in advance.

D) And many times, God, in working out His purposes in our life, is working years in advance.

1) and we don't even realize it, we don't even know it.

E) I have had this happen so many times – meet someone – seems connection – cool

1) Nothing happens – weird – why – 2,3,4 years go by and then something happens –

F) The Reason for that relationship or being in that place or that connection is revealed!

He is putting us in position, putting us into place years in advance.

A) Our problem, we live on a day by day basis, and we look at today, and we look at tomorrow, and we say, **"Nothing's happening in my life. I've been here for two whole weeks, and nothing's happening."**

B) Well, God's purposes are not always accomplished in two weeks. Sometimes it's years.

C) And here it is five years later that we now begin to see why God has put these people in these positions.

1) He's got them there well ahead of the time that they will be used.

God doesn't just see things in the realm of the Big Picture – but he is interested in the individual.

A) He has a plan for your life – Use you in your sphere of influence.

Chuck Swindol adds this insight from his book on the Life of Esther. **"When I read God's Word, I don't find many stories about great crusades, and city wide revivals and mass meetings where God's attention rested on an entire country or a whole community.**

More often, I find individual men and women who made a difference, who set the pace or cut a wide path or stood in the gap and changed their times.

From Genesis to Revelation, we see God's hand on the lives of individuals who thought and said what was right-regardless- and as a result, history was made."

B) In the lives of Mordecai we see some traits that are often in the lives of the type of People God uses to do great things. Make a significant Impact

C) As we continue through this story tonight I want to point out several traits – we can glean from.

#1 They are not afraid to go against the grain. – Men and women of Conviction.

D) This is seen in Mordecai's unwillingness to Bow to Haman.

1) He wasn't just going to go with the flow –

E) True in History of the Church as well – Men like Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, Wesley, Whitefield, Graham, Chuck Smith.

8 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain. 9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver{ six million dollars } into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasuries."

B) The Jews were scattered throughout the 127 provinces probably close to 3 million strong

1) Haman says I'll give you six million dollars if you'll let me carry out this eradication.

That sounded appealing to Xerxes

¹⁰ So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. ¹¹ And the king said to Haman, “The money and the people *are* given to you, to do with them as seems good to you.”

¹² Then the king’s scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a *decree* was written according to all that Haman commanded—to the king’s satraps, to the governors who *were* over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king’s signet ring. ¹³ And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king’s provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth *month*, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions:

Interesting the time table here: Haman ordered the annihilation of all the Jews in the first month of the year and it was not to be carried out until the 12th month.

A) Sign of his hatred – let them live in torment for 11 months knowing what awaits them

B) John 10 – Satan is a Thief and a Robber who comes to Rob, Kill and to Destroy. {Fear and torment

C) The last part of v.13 reveals how he was going to get all this money – Plunder the Jews.

D) Exactly how Hitler financed his War – he took from the Jewish people he was destroying.

E) Throughout history – Jewish people have always been those who have prospered.

So the Decision was made: V 14 adds A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, {Once it was issued into law the edict could not be reversed even by the king} being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day. ¹⁵ The couriers went out, hastened by the king’s command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

What a depiction of pride and arrogance and the disregard of human life.

A) They sat down to drink - the rest of the city is perplexed – {Mind blowing

CH. 4

When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry. ² He went as far as the front of the king’s gate, for no one might enter the king’s gate clothed with sackcloth.

This sackcloth with ashes, of course, was the sign of extreme mourning.

A) Here we see 2nd trait in the lives of people that God uses to do great things - #2 They are touched deeply by sin and injustice.

B) Starts in Private: When Nehemiah heard of the reproach – mourned many days – but no one knew.

C) There is a time for public sorrow – but it starts with private sorrow –

1) The man of God – he is moved by the affects of sin – his heart is grieved.

D) When is the last time you really had a good cry or your heart was burdened – sin and the rebellion around you.

1) The injustice and destruction taking place in lives – because of sin and rebellion.

E) DOES IT BREAK YOUR HEART?

Now Shushan wasn’t the only place where people were mourning ³ And in every province where the king’s command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Interesting how suffering can really bring people together and bring people to a place of seeking God more fervently

{ 911 – I wish we would have gone there.

➤ Often wonder what is it going to take?

Now it seems that Esther lived a bit of a sheltered life in the Palace because she seems to be clueless to the decree. – But she gets wind of Mordecai being out in the street mourning – Sackcloth and Ashes – was probably clueless at this point to the Edict – separated from normal life there in the Palace

4 So Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was deeply distressed. Then she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept them.

A)Now when Mordecai refused the clothes she sent – she knows something serious is happening here

Then Esther called Hathach, *one* of the king's eunuchs whom he had appointed to attend her, and she gave him a command concerning Mordecai, to learn what and why this *was*.⁶ So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square that *was* in front of the king's gate.⁷ And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries to destroy the Jews.⁸ He also gave him a copy of the written decree for their destruction, which was given at Shushan, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her, and that he might command her to go in to the king to make supplication to him and plead before him for her people.⁹ So Hathach returned and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

Mordecai is Charging Esther- "you've got to go in and intercede for the nation, for your people."

¹⁰ Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai:¹¹ "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, *he has* but one law: put *all* to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days."

The law in Persia was no one could come into the presence of the King unless they were summoned by him.

A)If someone just barged in and even came humbly without being summoned – Put to death.

B)Unless the King put out his golden scepter – granting you entrance –

1)Esther was saying: Huge Risk – since he hasn't summoned me in 30 days.

¹² So they told Mordecai Esther's words.¹³ And Mordecai told *them* to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews.

Mordecai wanted Esther to realize that the palace offered no protection, no special privilege.

A)If the decree was carried out the Palace could not save her or her family!

B)She was Jewish, approaching the king was no more dangerous than not doing so because **her doom was assured by the edict that Haman had issued.**

C)But then Mordecai says something that is really intriguing.

1) ¹⁴ For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish.

Mordecai says look Esther if you don't do this Deliverance is going to come.

A)Idea being God is going to raise up someone else- Mordecai has faith – God is not going to let this happen.

B)Messiah has not come yet.

1)Deliverance will Come – And Esther you will lose the opportunity to be the instrument.

C)I think God does this in our lives to. He will bring you into a situation where you see a problem – a Lack in the Church – a need

1)God is showing you the problem because He wants you to be a part of the solution.

D)If you fail to respond – he will find someone else.

Notice the end of V.14 Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?"

A)Mordecai was expressing confidence that

Esther's position was, in fact, designed and purposed by God.”

B)3rd Trait in A man/woman that God uses: #3 They inspire others to do what God has called them to do.

C)They inspire others to see the Bigger Picture – to see God’s Providence and Plan in the midst of Turmoil and Chaos.

D)The idea that Mordecai is impressing upon Esther is; who knows,

1)Esther, but maybe God has chosen you to be the instrument in bringing to pass His purposes.

E)This is why you were chosen to be the Queen!

I do believe God has a plan and purpose for each of us.

A)Paul, as he is writing to the Ephesians 2:10
“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

B)In other words, what Paul is saying is God has set out a plan for your life.

1)Something for you to walk in – or to step into.

C)Listen I am living here in North County – and so are you – For such a time as this.

D)God has us here. – Over the last few years – Opportunities to go someplace else –
Always remain open – Prayed -

A)Nope you are right where I want you to be – Great for me – **I love it here – love you guys - Rapture**

B)Maybe you are different – you would like to be someplace else – living – working – pray all the time

1)God has you right where you are **for such a time is this**

C)But You are so focused on where you want to be that you are not seeing why the Lord has you here to begin with.

D)God has foreordained the work that He intends for you to do for the glory of the kingdom.

1)He's already got it all worked out; but in the mean time, He's working in you to prepare you for that work that He's prepared that you should do.

E)If you continue to resist what God is calling you to, the need He has shown you. –

1)God will find someone else: Example at Shadowridge

Esther had been the queen for 5 years – had no idea why – NOW IT WAS BECOMING VERY CLEAR!

Prep time right now! {Don't grow weary waiting

A)Don't get to comfortable that when the time comes you don't want to respond.

B)Mordecai is telling Esther – the time is now!

¹⁵Then Esther told *them* to reply to Mordecai:

¹⁶“Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!”

¹⁷So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

5 Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on *her royal robes* and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house

What is going to happen to Esther? Will she Live or die my oh my – TO BE CONINUED

One last thing:

A)Esther is not Perfect –

B)Vashti – Refused to be degraded – Esther slept with the King

C)Missed that part – The girls – went into to have their date with the King and they spent the night.

1)I don't think they were playing Scrabble.

D)Ok - Just ruined your picture of Esther –

I Point this out because Esther is not the Hero of the story. Neither is Mordecai.

A)The Hero is God – Not just the Author but He is the Hero – Rescuer

**B)Important To remember this at this juncture
in our country – Election talk – Debates**

**1)Our Country doesn't need a president – we
need a King – KING JESUS**

C)NEED REVIVAL – starts in our hearts!

**What made this country great – started with
Men who believed in Seeking God**

A)Wanted God to be the center of everything

**B)That is what will make our church great
Your family great**

**C)The minute we get away from that personally
– see what has happened to us a nation**

**1)The further we move from God the worse off
we become.**

D)We need to pray for our country – Repent

**Why we need to deal with our Flesh – make no
provision for it**

**Live Holy lives – consecrated to Jesus - Blessing
– Protection – come walking in the fear of the
Lord**