

For Such A Time As This

Limits: (Scripture selection)

Esther 4:12-17

Literature: (type of literature of limits)

This passage is part of a larger biographical narrative primarily concerning the life of Queen Esther and her people the Jews.

Language: (Important words and thoughts)

- מְכֹל־הַיְהוּדִים - Construct- absolute with the meaning of “from all the Jews” (v. 13)
- בֵּית־הַמֶּלֶךְ - Construct- absolute with the meaning of “house of the king” and is actually referring to the household of the king (All that are in his palace and care) (v. 13)
- תִּהְרִישִׁי - fail to make objection at proper time (v. 14)
- וְאַתָּה וּבֵית־אָבִיךָ - Literally “and you and the house of your father” implying Esther and her entire biological family

Location: (surrounding location and events of the scripture)

Leads (various angles within the given passage)

Links: (additional scripture)

Lessons: (What does the text mean?)

Life Application: (Spiritual nurture of my given congregation)

For Such a Time as This

Esther 4:12-17

When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai,

he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape.

For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

"Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions."

Each of us in this room has been created with a divine purpose: a divine destiny. For some of us that purpose is clearly laid before us; for others, it is yet to be seen. Yet we must each come to a comprehension that the destiny that God has placed before us will come to pass, whether we willingly participate in it or not. As we shall see in this passage today, God's purpose will prevail, even if it must come from another. However, we must each ask ourselves the same question that Mordechai asked Queen Esther, "who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Let's first look at the story of Queen Esther.

King Xerxes had recently divorced his previous Queen, Vashti. There is much speculation among Theologians about the reasons for this act of divorce. It all stemmed from her refusal to appear before his friends to show off her beauty. The King had put out a call throughout his kingdom that he was looking for a new wife.

Esther was convinced that she should seek out this opportunity and through a long drawn-out process including skin preparation and beauty treatments, Esther was chosen as the new Queen.

Esther was an orphaned cousin (or some say niece of Mordecai, a man who rose to leadership among the king's men.

Esther was a Jew but was encouraged by Mordecai to reveal her heritage to no one, especially while she was in these preparation stages.

Esther was highly favored by the king and in fact all of those who surrounded her.

There was however, another who was rising in the ranks of leadership among the king's men- his name was Haman. King Xerxes declared that all men should bow and show respect to Haman but Mordecai refused because of his devotion and allegiance to God.

Haman was enraged by Mordecai, and with the king's unwitting approval, ordered all of Mordecai's people, the Jews, executed. (Now you must remember, Mordechai had told Esther NOT to reveal her Jewishness to anyone.)

Queen Esther called her maidens to prayer and fasting and devised a plan of her own to overturn the strategy of Haman.

In short, through the turn of events, King Xerxes was reminded that Mordecai had saved his life. Haman was hung, and Esther overturned the law to exterminate the Jews.

This all stemmed from a proclamation of Mordecai to Esther- "Is it possible that you were placed in power for such a time as this?"

Now as we have looked at this positioning that was taking places, let's look at the qualities of Queen Esther

She was a very ordinary individual (just like you and I.)

Her “ordinariness” was shown in the fact that she was an orphan. Besides that, she was a Jew. It is apparent that she had a singular gift- her beauty and personality

Also, just like you and I, she faced some type of obstacle or opportunity. It seems sometimes that God uses extraordinary people to accomplish His work. The greater truth is...that God uses simple, ordinary people to perform His deeds.

She was **divinely positioned by God** “for such a time as this” (just like you and I.)

Notice this about Esther: she had spent a great period of time in excitement in preparation for the joining of her to the king. But now she simply walked in complacency, lethargy, apathy, and “matter-of-fact-ness” because of her position. There was also on the back of her mind a fear: she feared possible death for her approach of the king if he was unwilling to recognize her.

Finally, however, Esther grasped the greater need that stood before her through Mordecai’s challenge and she rose to the occasion. Because of this, she utilized something else very normal for her; you see, she was already equipped with the compassion of God toward her people. Because of that, she dared to become a risk-taker, knowing that she could be put to death for approaching the king unsolicited.

She was **divinely positioned by God** “for such a time as this”

I believe that there is a challenge to each of us such as the one issued to Esther

You see, we too are an ordinary group of people. All of us here today have come from diverse cultures, races, and backgrounds. Also, we all have a variety of gifts- some of us singularly and some multitudinously.

Further, we are in the midst of a great opportunity to save a generation, to save a nation, to save the world

Could it be that we are **divinely positioned by God** “for such a time as this”

My friend, I believe it is true of all of us: we have been divinely positioned.

We have been divinely positioned to hear God’s voice.

We have been divinely positioned to act upon God’s Word

We have been divinely positioned to persevere and see God’s victory come to pass

We have been divinely positioned to recognize His positioning. You see, we have spent much time of excitement in preparation for revival. But I must caution you that perhaps

some of us walk in a state of “take it for granted”-ness because we have been touched with the hand of God. In others words, we may like things just like they are because we have it pretty good. Some, however, may tend to search for something flashier. Or others may search for something less challenging and less confrontive.

But as Esther saw the greater need through Mordecai’s challenge rose to the occasion, so we must recognize what God has placed in our midst and rise to the occasion.

She was **divinely positioned by God** “for such a time as this”

Could it be that we too, are **divinely positioned by God** “for such a time as this”

You see, we have been divinely equipped. We have been given strong Biblical teaching. We have been encouraged by reports from around the world of God’s victory. We have been challenged and charged prophetically with a divine apostolic calling. We have been anointed with His presence and His equipping.

Now the challenge is to us, and we must be responders- risk takers if you will. For we are not the normal pie-in-the-sky Christians looking for the sweet bye and bye. Certainly, we do recognize our future and we long for it but... we make a conscious choice to, as Luke 19:13 says, “occupy until He comes.

Also, we choose to live as if eternal life begins at salvation, not at death. 1 Timothy 6:11 tells us “But you, man of God, ...pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

We are to live as if we are designated with a plan and a purpose.

Isaiah 61:1-3- “The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.”

Further, we are to live as if our lives are open books and our chapters are currently (and in the future) being written by God. And we are to live as if we have been given divine marching orders and that success is dependent upon our obedience. Mordecai told Esther that somehow help would come whether she provided it or not...but that her success was dependent upon her obedience. We, too, are told in Acts 1:8- “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” We are well equipped my friend.

Finally, we are to live our lives as if we were created for such a time as this. Hebrews 12:1-3 tells us- “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Could it be that we too, are **divinely positioned by God** “for such a time as this”

I think the answer to that is well before us; we are **divinely positioned by God** “for such a time as this.”

Would you bow your heads with me?

Decision:

1. Pray for those who are fearful, who are lost, who are bound
2. Pray for those who are timid and withdrawn for energy and decision
3. Pray a general corporate prayer that we would rise to the occasion for such a time as this.