

## For Such a Time as This

**Relevant Bible Verses:** The Book of Esther

**Main Points:** Prepare in the *Presence of God* and the *Power of God* before any preparation in the flesh to deal with the problems we face in this world.

**Message Notes:**

- As stated above, we need to prepare in the Spirit by welcoming the Holy Spirit and Jesus to move in our lives because without doing so, by only preparing to meet the troubles in this world by worldly means, it is akin to using gum to seal a crack in a wall.
- Key players in the story of Esther include **Society** (King Xerxes and the Persian Empire), **The People of God** (Esther, Mordecai, and the Jews), and **The Enemy of God's people** (Haman).
- In the story of Esther, God used a young Jewish teenager to save the people of God and change the fate of (or severely impact) the fate of an entire nation. At the time, Persia was ruled over by King Xerxes. In order to laud his wealth, to reveal his glory and splendor, he toured the Kingdom with his nobles and leaders, and ended it with a large banquet. When he requested his wife make an appearance, she refused, leading to the appointment of Esther as queen, and the events in the book of Esther.
- In Esther's coronation, God's work is revealed. Before any move by the enemy had been made, he placed Esther in a place of favour by the King's side; a place where she could make a difference. In addition, Mordecai had also already been put in a place, after saving the King's life, where he would be protected. By no coincidence, right before Haman would ask the King for the life of Mordecai, the King is reminded of how Mordecai saved his life.
- The events of Esther can be seen reflected throughout history, and in the present day. Society issues commands that the people of God cannot follow, and the resulting consequences are the irrational responses from society (such as Haman being given permission to wipe out the entirety of the Jews after portraying them as a rebellious people).
- **How to apply to our lives:** Everything the enemy is trying to do, God has already gone before and has put the pieces in place. Though we may be scared, as Esther was when she was asked to approach King Xerxes, we cannot be ruled by *fear* but by *faith*.
  - *Pieces in our lives were put in place for **such a time as this**. We ARE one of these pieces. We may not see why we are where we are, and it may not make sense to us, but neither does Jesus taking our place make sense.*

- God's ways confuse the wisdom of the world. What seems foolish to world is the salvation of the world in the sacrifice of Jesus.
- Though it can be hard, we need to believe *by faith* we are where God wants us to be. It may not be for this moment, the time may not have arrived, but we have been moved into a position that will reveal God's work and his plan.
- There is no reference to God's direct guidance in Esther, but his handiwork is revealed throughout regardless, as is often the case in our own lives. Even with no direct guidance or direction, by faith we trust God is leading us.
- **Summary:** Trust God and see him move. He is always at work. Though we may be frightened, fighting against the old man, with faith we can overcome fear and act despite it. We are all pieces and players in God's plan, whether we see it or not, and though we may not know why we are here, God does. He has placed us exactly where we need to be when we need to be there. He has gone before us and put the pieces in place *for such a time as this*.

**For Further Study:**

- Read through the book of Esther and look for the places you see God's hand at work.
- What parallels do you see between the story of Esther and today?