

“For Such a Time as This”

I. Introduction

- A. Scripture shows us that we can be strengthened by the faith, integrity, reverence, and devotion of Old Testament characters who made good choices (cf. **Heb. 11**).
- B. One such example is Esther, whose courage led her to become a seemingly unlikely deliverer for those who were God’s people in the Mosaic dispensation. Esther was a Jewish orphan girl who became queen of the Medo-Persian Empire. She was raised by her cousin Mordecai, who refused to show the reverence toward an official named Haman that this prideful official expected. Haman retaliated by determining to slay the Jews. Queen Esther then risked her life in order to use her position to save her people from extinction.

II. God’s Providential Care

- A. Though God is not directly mentioned in the book of Esther, it is clear that His providential hand was at work. Had Haman’s wishes come true, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (through whom the Messiah was to come) would not have been preserved. God made sure they *were* preserved, as Mordecai understood He would. **Esther 4:13-14**
- B. God is just as faithful today to help His people providentially and ensure that His promises are fulfilled. The very nature of prayer rests on the understanding that while we cannot put our finger on all of the specific ways God intervenes, we can trust that He helps. Biblical examples of God working “behind the scenes” can help strengthen His faithful followers today.
James 1:5; Hebrews 13:5-6

III. Unexpected Opportunities

- A. Mordecai’s words, “for such a time as this,” stressed to Esther that she potentially had a golden opportunity in front of her that she should not overlook. **Esther 4:14**
- B. This too ties in with a principle that is key for us to consider. While God’s followers might often be tempted to wish circumstances were different and imagine what it would be like if we had “better” opportunities to serve God, it is easy to overlook great opportunities we *do* have to serve Him. **1 Corinthians 16:8-9**

IV. Who God Can Use

- A. Not only is it easy to overlook specific opportunities we have to serve God and others, but it’s also temptation for some to overlook *oneself* as someone God can use to accomplish much good. The account of Esther illustrates the principle that God often uses seemingly ordinary people to accomplish great things for Him. **Esther 2:7**
- B. God can use *each* one of us to do wonderful things in His kingdom. The key is not how talented or impressive we are from the world’s perspective, but whether or not we have a heart to let God direct us. **Mark 12:41-44**

V. The Need for Courage

- A. Allowing God to direct us demands courage to do the right thing when it’s not easy. This is another principle that the account of Esther exemplifies. **Esther 4:11, 16**
- B. Like Esther, many of God’s servants have been in physically dangerous situations because of the choice to do what’s right. All of God’s servants must have the courage, commitment, and integrity to do what He teaches is right, no matter the temporal consequences.
Acts 14:19-21; Romans 8:31