

Approximately 35 Minutes



## **Esther: For Such a Time as This**

*A Hidden God and a Revealed Savior*

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Father God, in the name of Jesus, we thank You for Your Word. Even in books where Your name is not mentioned, Your hand is clearly seen. As we study the Book of Esther, open our eyes to see Christ in every page. Strengthen our faith in Your sovereignty. Stir courage in our hearts. And draw anyone listening who does not know You into salvation tonight. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Introduction: The God Who Is There - Even When Unseen

The Book of Esther is unique.

👉 God's name is never mentioned once.

There are no recorded miracles.

- No prophets speaking.
- No parted seas.
- No fire from heaven.

And yet... God is **everywhere** in this story.

Esther teaches us something powerful:  
Even when God seems silent ... He is  
sovereign.

The setting is the Persian Empire, about  
100 years after the Babylonian exile. Many  
Jews have returned to Jerusalem, but some  
remained scattered throughout Persia.  
They are living in a foreign culture, under a  
pagan king.

The king is **Ahasuerus** 🖐️ uh-haz-yoo-EE-rus (**Xerxes I**) 🖐️ **ZERK-seez** or **wORK-seez** - ruler over 127 provinces from India to Cush ***(Esther 1:1 NIV) This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, 🖐️ ZERK-seez or wORK-seez the Xerxes who ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush.***

This is a story of:

- A king with absolute power
- A wicked enemy with genocidal hatred
- A Jewish orphan girl elevated to royalty
- And a deliverance that points directly to Jesus Christ

Let's walk through it....

## **1. The Crisis: A Death Sentence Over God's People**

In chapter 3, we meet Haman 🖐️ **HAY-mun**.

Haman 🖐️ **HAY-mun** is an Agagite 🖐️ **AY-gag-ite** = someone descended from or connected to King Agag of the Amalekites 🖐️ **uh-MAL-uh-kites** an ancient enemy of Israel.

Haman is promoted to a high position, and everyone bows to him .... except Mordecai 🖐️ **MOR-duh-kye**.

***Esther 3:2 (NIV)<sup>2</sup> All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman 🖐️ HAY-mun, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai 🖐️ MOR-duh-kye would not kneel down or pay him honor.***

Why? Likely because of Haman's lineage and his hostility toward the Jews.

Haman's pride turns into hatred. But he doesn't just target Mordecai .... he targets all Jews.

**Esther 3:6 (NIV) <sup>6</sup> Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes. 👉 ZERK-seez or wORK-seez**

This is an attempt of genocide.

The decree is sealed with the king's signet ring. It cannot be reversed.

A death sentence is declared over the Jewish people.

## **Type of Christ Insight:**

Here we see a powerful picture:

👉 Haman represents Satan.

Just as Haman sought to destroy God's covenant people, Satan has always sought to destroy God's redemptive plan.

- From Pharaoh killing Hebrew babies...
- To Herod killing infants in Bethlehem...
- To the cross itself...

👉 The enemy tries to wipe out the **seed of promise.... "Jesus Christ"**.

Revelation 12 describes Satan as a dragon seeking to devour the child.

The hatred against the Jews in Esther is spiritual in nature. The enemy wanted to stop the line through which Messiah would come.

But God had already promised in Genesis 12 that through Abraham's seed all nations would be blessed.

👉 God's plan cannot be stopped.

## 2. The Courage: “For Such a Time as This”

Mordecai sends word to Queen Esther.

She is Jewish ... but the king does not know it.

She has been raised from orphanhood to royalty. 👉 God positioned her.

Mordecai tells her to go before the king and plead for her people.

But there is a problem...

**Esther 4:11** (NIV)

**<sup>11</sup> “All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one**

**law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”**

Approach the king uninvited .... you die.

Esther hesitates.

Mordecai responds with one of the most famous lines in Scripture:

**Esther 4:14 (NIV)<sup>14</sup> 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 your royal position for such a time as this?”**

**“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”**

Church, listen carefully.

God positions His people deliberately in history.

You are where you are ... not by accident.

- In South Texas...
- In your church...
- In your family...

👉 For such a time as this.

Esther responds with courage:

**Esther 4:16 (NIV) <sup>16</sup> “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 attendants**

**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.”**

👉 That is surrender.

## **Type of Christ Insight:**

Esther risks her life to intercede for her people.

Jesus did more than risk His life .....

👉 He gave His life.

**Hebrews 9:24 (NIV)<sup>24</sup> For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence.**

Jesus approach the Father... like Esther approach this earthly king:

- She approached the king on behalf of others.
- Jesus approached the Father on behalf of sinners.

But here is the **difference**:

Esther said, **“If I perish, I perish.”**

Jesus knew He would perish .... and went anyway.

***Philippians 2:8*** (NIV) ***8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!***

Esther is a shadow.

👉 Jesus is the substance.

### 3. The Golden Scepter: Access Granted

Esther enters the throne room.

**Esther 5:2 (NIV)<sup>2</sup> When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.**

She lives.

Access is granted.

This moment is powerful typology.

In ancient Persia, access to the king was restricted.

👉 But through Christ, access to the King of Kings is granted.

**Hebrews 4:16 (NIV) <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

The golden scepter in Esther points to the **cross of Christ**.

Because Jesus bore judgment, the scepter of mercy is extended to us.

You and I deserve **death** under divine law.

But Christ stood in our place.

#### **4. The Reversal: The Enemy Defeated**

Haman builds gallows for Mordecai.

 But in an amazing turn of events, the very gallows he built for someone else became the place of his own downfall.

**Esther 7:10 (NIV) <sup>10</sup> So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided.**

The enemy's weapon becomes his downfall.

👉 This is Calvary.

**Colossians 2:15 (NIV) <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.**

Satan thought the cross was victory.

It was defeat.

The very instrument meant to destroy Christ became the instrument that destroyed Satan's claim.

The Jews are saved.

The decree of death is countered by a new decree of **deliverance**.

And the “Feast of Purim” 👉 **POOR-im** is established ... a Jewish holiday now celebrated meaning **God’s hidden providence** ... even though God’s name is never mentioned in Esther, His hand is clearly guiding events.

👉 The celebration of reversal.

## **5. The Hidden God, The Revealed Christ:**

Esther never mentions God’s name.

### **Why?**

Because this book shows us God quietly working behind the scenes ..... not through dramatic, visible miracles.

👉 Coincidences pile up:

- . Esther becomes queen.
- . Mordecai overhears a plot.
- . The king cannot sleep.
- . The chronicles are read.
- . Haman walks in at just the right time.

None of this is **random**.

God is writing the story behind the curtain.

👉 And that is the gospel.

For 400 silent years between Malachi and Matthew .... God seemed silent.

But at just the right time...

Galatians 4:4 (NIV) ***But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,***

👉 Jesus is the greater Esther.

- . She was chosen before the crisis .....  
👉 Christ was foreordained before the foundation of the world.
- . She revealed her identity to save her people .... 👉 Christ revealed Himself as Messiah.
- . She interceded before an earthly king ..... 👉 Christ intercedes before the heavenly King.
- . She secured temporal deliverance ....  
👉 Christ secured eternal salvation.

**Application: For Such a Time as This**  
People.... Listen.

We are living in serious times.

- Cultural hostility toward biblical truth.
- Moral confusion.
- Spiritual deception.

But this is not the time to step back. It is the time to “**Step Up**”.

This is our Esther moment.

👉 You are placed in your community for such a time as this.

Hey...Courage is not absence of fear .... it is **obedience** despite of fear.

Esther teaches:

- . God is sovereign.
- . Evil will not win.
- . Deliverance comes through a mediator.
- . God’s people must stand in courage.

## **Born Again Invitation:**

But here is the deeper truth.

Before Esther could intercede, she had favor with the king.

Before you can stand in courage, you must belong to the King.

Right now...this very moment, there is a greater decree hanging over all humanity.

**Romans 6:23** (NIV)

**“For the wages of sin is death...”**

That is the decree.

👉 But there is a second decree:

**“...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

Jesus stretched out His arms ... like a golden scepter extended ... inviting you to come.

If you have never been born again...

If you have never surrendered your life to Jesus...

**Today** is your moment, **“right now”**.

Just as Esther stepped into the throne room, you can step into grace.

Let us pray:

**“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe You died on the cross for my sins and rose again. I turn from my sin and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive me. Make me new. I trust You today.” Thank you Jesus...Amen.**

Now Listen...“If” you prayed that **sincerely** with **faith believing** ... you are saved this very moment...

 God loves you and makes you His Adopted child .... a child of the King! A Citizen of heaven!

**God** is good all the time!!!

**Closing Prayer:**

**Father God, thank You for the Book of Esther. Thank You that even when You seem hidden, You are working. Thank You for Jesus, our greater Deliverer, our perfect Intercessor, our victorious King. Strengthen us to stand for such a time as this. And may Your Spirit continue drawing hearts into salvation. We give You all the glory and praise. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.**



Matthew 28:19-20