

## Esther - For Such a Time As This

Esther 4 ❖ Ephesians 1:11

“Esther’s fast challenges the sort of thinking that says we have no meaningful role to play in bringing about real change in our world. We commit ourselves absolutely to the work and purposes of God in our world, trusting that God will work, but also striving with every fiber of our being to see them brought about.”

(“The Message of Esther,” David G. Firth, p. 78)

### “For Such a Time As This”

Do you know the story of The Queen’s \_\_\_\_\_-in-\_\_\_\_\_?

Her name was Princess Alice of Greece, and during World War 2 she hid a \_\_\_\_\_ family from the \_\_\_\_\_ in Athens despite the fact that her home was just a few yards from the \_\_\_\_\_ headquarters.

Princess Alice never told her family about her wartime \_\_\_\_\_. They didn’t learn about it until long after her \_\_\_\_\_ in 1969. In 1993, Israel designated her as “\_\_\_\_\_ Among the Nations,” and her son, Prince Philip, traveled to \_\_\_\_\_ for the ceremony honoring his mother.

The book of \_\_\_\_\_ is another true story about a \_\_\_\_\_ who saved the lives of countless \_\_\_\_\_ 2500 years ago.

“In Him we were also chosen, having been \_\_\_\_\_ according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Him who works out \_\_\_\_\_ in conformity with the purpose of His will” (Ephesians 1:11).

### Mordecai’s Mourning

Today when we are mourning the imminent passing or the actual passing of someone we love, you can tell by looking at our \_\_\_\_\_. Not that long ago, you could also tell when people were in mourning by looking at their \_\_\_\_\_.

Such was the case among the \_\_\_\_\_ in Old Testament days.

“When Mordecai learned of \_\_\_\_\_ that had been done, he \_\_\_\_\_ his clothes, put on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and went out into the city, \_\_\_\_\_ loudly and bitterly” (Esther 4:1).

A word about \_\_\_\_\_ or the lack thereof in our day ...

News of the impending \_\_\_\_\_ had been circulated throughout the Persian Empire, so \_\_\_\_\_ in every province were also \_\_\_\_\_.

### Esther’s Fast

The only \_\_\_\_\_ in the Kingdom who was \_\_\_\_\_ mourning was Queen \_\_\_\_\_. When she learned of her \_\_\_\_\_ Mordecai’s behavior, she sent one of her servants to find out why he was \_\_\_\_\_.

Mordecai gave a copy of the \_\_\_\_\_ to Esther’s servant and told him to “\_\_\_\_\_ her to go into the King’s \_\_\_\_\_ and beg for \_\_\_\_\_ and plead with him for \_\_\_\_\_ people” (v. 8).

Esther’s \_\_\_\_\_ reaction was \_\_\_\_\_. She sent word to Mordecai that if she dared to approach the King without an \_\_\_\_\_, she would be \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 9-11)

In his reply, Mordecai minced no words: “Do not think that because you are in the King’s house you \_\_\_\_\_ of all the Jews will \_\_\_\_\_. For if you remain \_\_\_\_\_ at this time, relief and \_\_\_\_\_ for the Jews will come from another place, but you and your father’s family will \_\_\_\_\_. And who knows but that you have come to \_\_\_\_\_ position **for such a time as \_\_\_\_\_**?” (vv. 13-14)

Esther sent word to Mordecai: “Gather all the Jews who are in Susa and \_\_\_\_\_ for me for \_\_\_\_\_ days and nights. My maids and I will \_\_\_\_\_, as well. Then I will go to the \_\_\_\_\_, even though it is against the law. And if I \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_” (vv. 15-16).

### God Is Always at Work

In a \_\_\_\_\_ palace God \_\_\_\_\_ arranged events so that a person of His \_\_\_\_\_ would come to power to save His \_\_\_\_\_.

God is always working \_\_\_\_\_ the scenes.

### Takeaway

Are we \_\_\_\_\_ for the Christians being persecuted today?

“**For such a time as this**” - God calls us to confront \_\_\_\_\_ in our day.

