

Esther

For Such a Time as This

Esther is one of the great women of the bible. She was chosen to be queen by a Persian king in a country where her people were being oppressed. She discovered a plot to destroy her people, and found herself with a big decision to make. Because of her courage, God was able to use Esther to save her people.

Had to Make a Big Decision

Esther 3:12-13 (NIV)

(12) Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders to the king's satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring.

(13) Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews— young and old, women and children— on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

What was the plot against her people?

Esther 4:10-12 (NIV)

(10) Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai,

(11) "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."

(12) When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai,

When Mordecai, her uncle, sends word to her about the evil plot, what is her initial response?

Esther 4:15-16 (NIV)

(15) Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

(16) "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."

How did she respond the second time?

Can you list some of the things Esther did when she stepped up to this big decision, what did she do to prepare to see the king?

Had Good Advice

Esther 4:8-9 (NIV)

(8) He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

(9) Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said.

What is her uncle's advice to her?

Esther 4:13-14 (NIV)

(13) 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.

(14) 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?"

How did her uncle help her see clearly the situation they were in?

Esther 8:2-12 (NIV)

(2) The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman's estate.

(3) Esther again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews.

(4) Then the king extended the gold scepter to Esther and she arose and stood before him.

(5) "If it pleases the king," she said, "and if he regards me with favor and thinks it the right thing to do, and if he is pleased with me, let an order be written overruling the dispatches that Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, devised and wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king's provinces.

(6) For how can I bear to see disaster fall on my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my family?"

- (7) King Xerxes replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, “Because Haman attacked the Jews, I have given his estate to Esther, and they have impaled him on the pole he set up.
- (8) Now write another decree in the king’s name in behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king’s signet ring—for no document written in the king’s name and sealed with his ring can be revoked.”
- (9) At once the royal secretaries were summoned—on the twenty-third day of the third month, the month of Sivan. They wrote out all Mordecai’s orders to the Jews, and to the satraps, governors and nobles of the 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush. These orders were written in the script of each province and the language of each people and also to the Jews in their own script and language.
- (10) Mordecai wrote in the name of King Xerxes, sealed the dispatches with the king’s signet ring, and sent them by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses especially bred for the king.
- (11) The king’s edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the armed men of any nationality or province who might attack them and their women and children, and to plunder the property of their enemies.
- (12) The day appointed for the Jews to do this in all the provinces of King Xerxes was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar.

The previous decree could not be reversed, so what new decree did Mordecai advise?

Had a Good Outcome

Esther 5:1-8 (NIV)

- (1) On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king’s hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Then the king asked, “What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you.”
- (4) “If it pleases the king,” replied Esther, “let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him.”
- (5) “Bring Haman at once,” the king said, “so that we may do what Esther asks.” So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared.
- (6) As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, “Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.”
- (7) Esther replied, “My petition and my request is this:
- (8) If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king’s question.”

How did the king respond when Esther first approached him?

Esther 7:1-8 (NIV)

- (1) So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther’s banquet,
- (2) and as they were drinking wine on the second day, the king again asked, “Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.”
- (3) Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request.
- (4) For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.”
- (5) King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?”
- (6) Esther said, “An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen.
- (7) The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden. But Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life.
- (8) Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, “Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?” As soon as the word left the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face.

How did the king respond when Esther revealed her request?

Esther 8:13-17 (NIV)

- (13) A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.
- (14) The couriers, riding the royal horses, went out, spurred on by the king’s command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa.
- (15) When Mordecai left the king’s presence, he was wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa held a joyous celebration.
- (16) For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honor.
- (17) In every province and in every city to which the edict of the king came, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them.

What was the final outcome?

Ask

What do you do when you have big decisions to make?

Application

What can you learn from Esther’s example?

Next time you have a big decision to make what sorts of things can you do to help you make a good decision?

Prayer

Lord, help me to listen to good advice from people I respect and care about me. Help me to remember to always pray earnestly before making any big decisions.

Key Verse

Esther 4:14 NLT

If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?

The Blue Book © Lifehouse International Church 2020
Editing or publishing not permitted without prior permission. Not for sale.
For more information visit www.mylifehouse.com/bluebook