

# FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

## ESTHER 4:1-17

TEXT: 4:13,14

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INTRO: Down through the years of history, there have always been times when the people of God have found themselves in straights due to the influence of Satan, sin and sinful people. But during those times, **GOD ALWAYS HAD A REMNANT OF PEOPLE WHO WERE WILLING TO STAND IN THE GAP FOR HIM** and, who, because of their steadfast determinate leadership, were used of God to protect His Name and the existence of His people. Could it be that YOU AND I ARE LIVING NOW IN THE PLAN AND PURPOSE OF GOD SO AS TO STAND IN THE GAP FOR GOD **FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS? IT COULD VERY WELL BE THIS IS THE REASON FOR OUR EXISTENCE AT THIS PRESENT TIME IN HISTORY! IF SO, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?**

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SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- 1) God always knows what is going on in the world.
- 2) God always has a plan for His people in light of what is going on in the world as specific times.
- 3) God always has certain people in critical places to perform His will and lead the rest of His people to stand without compromise in the face of sinful conditions.

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### OBSERVATION

**THE WORLD AROUND US, INCLUDING OUR BELOVED UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IS FACING SOME CRUCIAL ISSUES AT THIS TIME. AMONG OTHERS, THOSE ISSUES INCLUDE:**

- 1) The Sanctity of Life.
- 2) The Sanctify of the Family
- 3) The Public Display of God in Public Spaces
- 4) The Support of the Nation Israel
- 5) The Proper Stewardship of National Finances
- 6) The Freedom of Religion

**AS GOD WORKS, IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT YOU AND I ARE HERE FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS! HOW SHALL WE NOW RESPOND?**

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### I. THE EXAMPLE OF QUEEN ESTHER

Esther stood for the Jews in a time of their great need and thus was used by God to preserve the entire Jewish race!

#### A. The Time of Esther

-About 480 BC when the Jews were in captivity in the Persian Empire under King Ahasuerus.

## B. The Issue Facing Esther

1. Esther, who was Jewish, became Queen in Persia after Queen Vashti refused to obey the King who had sent for her. She actually was chosen to be Queen after winning a nation-wide beauty contest.

2. Esther's cousin, Mordecai was instrumental in getting Esther her "queen-ship" and at one point after she was Queen, he refused to give honor to Haman, a wicked man, who was one of the King's chief advisors. This angered Haman greatly and not only did Haman bribe the King to kill Mordecai, but **ALL JEWS** in the kingdom.

3. Upon learning of Haman's plot, all the Jews in the Kingdom were frightened, including Queen Esther. So, Mordecai **LITERALLY BEGGED** Esther to go before the King to re-direct his order to kill the Jews.

a. Even though Esther was Jew, the King did not know it.

b. No one, including the Queen, could approach the King unless being called, or their life was in danger. But under Mordecai's begging, Esther went before the King to relate to him Haman's plot. NOTE 4:13,14

4. Esther was somewhat reluctant, but Mordecai told her that she and her household would perish anyway as **ALL THE JEWS** were to be exposed. Mordecai said to her, **"WHO KNOWETH WHETHER THOU ART COME TO THE KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS?"**

5. Esther called for three days of fasting, after which she approached the King to relate Haman's plot.

## C. The Outcome of Esther's Actions

1. The King sided with Esther.

2. The King was angry at Haman and hanged him.

3. The Jews were saved.

4. God was glorified!

**ESTHER HAD BECOME PART OF THE KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME!**

ILLUSTRATION:

## II. THE EFFORTS OF OTHER BIBLICAL PERSONALITIES

**Many people in scripture have been used by God in crucial times.**

### A. Noah - Genesis 6-9

1. The Time of Noah

-About 2400 BC

2. The Issue facing Noah

a. The whole earth was in sin – Genesis 6:5-7

b. Noah was the only righteous one on Earth – Genesis 5:8

c. God told Noah to preach righteous for 120 years, and he did.

3. The Outcome of Noah

a. Most people rejected his message. Only his family was saved.

b. God provided the ARK to save Noah and his family.

c. The earth was destroyed by water due to sin, but Noah lived.

d. God was Glorified.

**FOR NOAH, GOD HAD HIM ON EARTH FOR SUCH A TIME!**

### B. Moses – Exodus 3–Deuteronomy 34

1. The Date of Moses

-1491-1451 BC

2. The Issue facing Moses

- a. Israel had been in bondage in Egypt for 400 years.
- b. At a particular time God raised up Moses to deliver Israel from Egypt.
- c. Moses was weak and stood against all odds, but he was willing to obey God and stand

before the Pharaoh for Israel's sake.

3. The Outcome for Moses

- a. Moses led Israel out of Egypt and to the Promised Land.
- b. God was glorified.

**FOR MOSES, GOD HAD HIM ON EARTH FOR SUCH A TIME!**

C. Joshua – Joshua 1-24

1. The Date of Joshua

-1451-1427 BC

2. The Issue facing Joshua

- a. Moses died after leading Israel for 40 years
- b. God called Joshua to lead Israel into the Promised Land which was filled with pagan people.

3. The Outcome for Joshua

- a. Israel occupied the Land
- b. God was glorified

**FOR JOSHUA, GOD HAD HIM ON EARTH FOR SUCH A TIME!**

D. David – 2 Samuel 17

1. The Date of David

-1063 BC

2. The Issue facing David

- a. Israel was fighting the Philistines
- b. Goliath, the great giant, frightened, the whole Army of Israel.
- c. David, though a young man, killed Goliath in the mighty name of the Lord.

3. The Outcome of David

- a. David killed Goliath
- b. Israel defeated the Philistines
- c. God was glorified

**FOR DAVID, GOD HAD HIM ON EARTH FOR SUCH A TIME!**

E. Nehemiah – Nehemiah 1-13

1. The Date of Nehemiah

a. 445 BC

2. The Issue Nehemiah

- a. The walls of Jerusalem were in the need of great repair.
- b. Nehemiah asked King Artaxerxes for permission to go back to rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem.

3. The Outcome for Nehemiah

- a. The Wall of Jerusalem was finished in just 52 days (Neh. 6:15)
- b. God was glorified

**FOR NEHEMIAH, GOD HAD HIM ON EARTH FOR SUCH A TIME!**

F. The Early Apostles Acts 5:12-42

1. The Date of the Apostles

-30-60 AD

2. The Issue facing the Apostles
  - a. The Apostles were told NOT to preach in the Name of Jesus.
  - b. Yet, they continued to Preach the Gospel.
3. The Outcome for the Apostles
  - a. Many people were saved
  - b. The church grew
  - c. God was glorified

**FOR THE APOSTLES, GOD HAD THEM ON EARTH FOR SUCH A TIME!**

NOTE: Due to the actions of each of the above, following generations, including us, were the recipients of blessing.

ILLUSTRATION:

### **III. THE EXPRESSION OF THE CURRENT GENERATION OF CHRISTIANS**

Today's Christians have a great heritage to follow when it comes to standing the Gap for God.

#### A. The Date of the Current Christians

-2012

#### B. The Issues of the Current Christians

1. God is being ousted
2. Secularism is on the rise
3. The Bible is being restricted
4. Christians are losing liberties

#### C. The Challenge of the Current Christians

1. **GOD HAS US HERE FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!**
2. What shall WE do?
  - Determine to remain and function as AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST!
3. What shall YOU do?
  - a. Pray for America
  - b. Stand for biblical truth
  - c. Speak for godly principles

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON: We are here for **SUCH A TIME AS THIS! LET'S NOT FAIL GOD OR FUTURE GENERATIONS!**