

July 25–31

Esther

“Thou Art Come... For Such a time As This”



Esther Becomes Queen of Persia

Esth 1:1-3,7-8

Esther Becomes Queen of Persia

Esth 1:10-12,20

Queen Vashti's refusal to obey a direct summons of the king - an emperor had absolute power over life and death, her stubbornness is surprising. If Vashti's rebelliousness (as viewed by these men) were to go unpunished, they knew it would inspire similar responses in their wives. Therefore they pushed Ahasuerus for action, and particularly asked for a decree that could not be altered. The king agreed, the decree was made, and Vashti lost her place as queen, setting up the opportunity for Esther to be selected as one of the king's wives. (Old Testament Student Manual Kings-Malachi, Esther: Queen of Persia and Advocate for Her People)

Esther Becomes Queen of Persia

Esth 2:8-11

Why do you think that Mordecai charged Esther to not make it known that she was a Jew?

Esther was shown respect and deference because, in obedience to Mordecai's charge to her, she had not admitted her Jewish lineage. A Jewish maiden would not have experienced such friendly treatment. (Old Testament Student Manual Kings-Malachi, Esther: Queen of Persia and Advocate for Her People)

Proclamation To Have All Jews Killed

Esth 3:2-5

Proclamation To Have All Jews Killed

Esth 3:6,8

What did Haman say to the king that would allow him to put a plan in place to destroy all the Jews?

Proclamation To Have All Jews Killed

Esth 3:11,13

Thomas S. Monson

“Haman, the chief prince in the king’s court, became increasingly angry with Mordecai because Mordecai would not bow down and pay homage to him. In retribution, Haman convinced the king—in a rather devious manner—that there were ‘certain people’ in all 127 provinces of the kingdom whose laws were different from others’ and that they would not obey the king’s laws and should be destroyed. Without naming these people to the king, Haman was, of course, referring to the Jews, including Mordecai.

“With the king’s permission to handle the matter, Haman sent letters to the governors of all of the provinces, instructing them ‘to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women... [on] the thirteenth day of the twelfth month.’” (CR, April 2009)

Esther is Instrumental in Saving the Jews

Esth 4:1-3

Esther is Instrumental in Saving the Jews

Esth 4:7-9

What did Mordecai ask Esther to do to help her people?

Esther is Instrumental in Saving the Jews

Esth 4:11-16

What did Mordecai say to Esther that helped her recognize that she could potentially save her people?

How did Esther demonstrate her loyalty and faith?

Spencer W. Kimball

“We fancy God can manage His world only with great battalions, when all the time He is doing it with beautiful babies.

“When a wrong wants righting, or a truth wants preaching, or a continent wants discovering, God sends a baby into the world.” (Faith Precedes the Miracle, pg. 323)

Bruce R. McConkie

“We are quite well aware that Joseph Smith and Jeremiah and the apostles and prophets, the wise, the great, and the good were foreordained to particular ministries. But that is only a part of the doctrine of foreordination. The great and glorious thing about foreordination is that... millions of people were foreordained.” (Making Our Calling and Election Sure, Brigham Young University Speeches of the Year, 25 March 1969)

Mary Ellen W. Smoot

“Consider Esther’s dilemma: It was against the law to approach the king without being summoned. Such an act was punishable by death. If she were to remain quiet, she would likely enjoy a life of luxury and ease. She could live the life of a queen or risk her life to save her family and her people. She counted the cost and chose to heed the longings of her people and of her heart.

“She asked Mordecai to gather all the Jews in Shushan and fast three days for her, and she and her handmaids would do the same. Then she said, ‘I [will] go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.’

“Everywhere I have traveled... I have witnessed the gospel of Jesus Christ in action and the radiant light of the gospel in the countenances of courageous and faithful sisters. The Spirit has borne witness to me that we each have been born ‘for such a time as this.’” (CR, Oct. 1997)

Esther is Instrumental in Saving the Jews

Esth 5:1-4

How did the king respond to Esther?

Barbara B. Smith

“With every step [Esther] must have wondered, ‘Will he hold out the royal sceptre?’ ‘Will he condemn me to death?’ ‘Will he drop me into poverty and oblivion?’ She stood before him... [knowing] that she had appealed to God for help and that there was a great moral wrong about to be committed. She had to be responsible to God who made her, no matter what the mortal consequences.

“Each woman in today’s world has responsibilities akin to those which Esther faced.... Each woman faces the challenge of being true to the principles of the gospel if she would improve the quality of her mortal life and make herself worthy of the opportunity of eternal progression.” (CR, Oct. 1979)

Esther is Instrumental in Saving the Jews

Esth 8:3-7,16-17

Thomas S. Monson

“Esther, through fasting, faith, and courage, had saved a nation.

“You will probably not be called upon to put your life on the line, as did Esther, for that which you believe. You will, however, most likely find yourself in situations where great courage will be required as you stand firm for truth and righteousness....

“You are some of our Heavenly Father’s strongest children, and He has saved you to come to the earth ‘for such a time as this.’ With His help, you will have the courage to face whatever comes. Though the world may at times appear dark, you have the light of the gospel, which will be as a beacon to guide your way.” (CR, April 2009)

Next Week:

August 1–7

Job 1–3; 12–14; 19; 21–24; 38–40; 42

“Yet Will I Trust in Him”

