



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

ESTHER 4:6—5:2

ESTHER GOES BEFORE THE KING— July 25, 2021

INTRODUCTION / SYNOPSIS:

Chapter 3 ¹One of the chief servants of King Ahasuerus was Haman. He was a proud man who demanded obedience and worship of those under him. However, Mordecai refused to bow to Haman. This infuriated Haman. Knowing that Mordecai was a Jew, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews in the kingdom. He convinced the king to pass a law (a decree) for genocide of the Jewish race. Neither Haman nor the king suspected that the new law would affect Queen Esther.

As early as August 1920, Hitler compared the Jews to germs. He stated that diseases cannot be controlled unless you destroy their causes. He hated the Jews and tried to extinguish the whole race. Now, we've just found out about the 1921 Tulsa Massacre of a white mob deliberately trying to extinguish the black race of people and so forth. It still continues and we are enclosed with all types of enemies.

Chapter 4 ²Mordecai and the Jews began to mourn and fast. They knew their time was limited. Mordecai mourned in sackcloth and ashes crying with a loud and bitter cry at the entrance of the palace gate. And when the people of every district heard of the law, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing laying in sackcloth and ashes. Queen Esther's maids and attendants informed her. So, she had apparently been shielded from the news of the coming destruction. And she also grieved, and sent clothing to Mordecai, but he refused to accept them. However, she then calls Hatach, (the one-man servant) appointed to look after her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to find out what was happening.

LESSON: I. LEARNING OF A DEADLY THREAT ESTHER 4:6-9

4:6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate. Hatach went at the request of the queen to where Mordecai was, in front of the king's gate, the street of the city to find out what was the trouble.

4:7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. Mordecai had learned of a deadly threat concerning the Jews, so he outlined it all to Hatach (Esther's servant). Come to find out Haman promised to pay money into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Haman had had it out for Mordecai when Mordecai didn't give him special honor at the king's gate when he came in and out at the king's command. So, Haman became very angry with Mordecai; so angry that he wanted to destroy all the Jews. Haman was a descendant of King Agag (the Amalekites), who was an enemy of the Jews. The Amalekites were the enemies of King Saul, so, Haman hated the Jews which makes him a racist in our day and time. We are seeing racial hatred even in this time and it has always been sinful and should never be condoned in any form. You see, Esther's Jewish name was "Hadassah", but Esther had not told anyone her nationality because Mordecai had told her not to.

4:8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people. Mordecai gave Hatach a written copy of the decree that was to wash out all the Jews which had begun in Shushan to destroy the Jews. He was to show this to Queen Esther

¹ <https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/esther-bible-story-summary/>

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to affirm it to her, charging her to go to the king to beg for his mercy and plead and intercede for the lives of the Jewish people which are her people. Mordecai realized that the only hope for the Jewish people was for Esther to intercede on their behalf, and thus gain the favor of the king in protecting the Jews.

4:9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai. Hatach returned to Esther and gave to her the account of what Mordecai had said.

II. WRESTLING WITH PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ESTHER 4:10-17

4:10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;— This time Esther gives Hatach a commandment to give to Mordecai.

4:11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days. Esther sends back this answer to Mordecai through Hatach for this was a major concern and problem of what Mordecai wanted her to do, since the king resided in the inner court. It was unlawful to approach him, for, *"It is common knowledge among all the king's servants and the people of every part of the kingdom that whoever enters the king's court who is not called or invited, there is one law, one penalty that would cause death, execution for that person, unless the king holds out the golden scepter towards him for that person to live. And I the queen has not been called in a month to come unto the king, so it would be unlikely that he would be desirous to see me now."* Aren't we glad that we have a King that's approachable? This seemed unavoidable as Esther wrestled with this personal responsibility upon her shoulders.

4:12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words. So Hatach gave Mordecai Esther's message.

4:13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. The reply from Mordecai was heart-wrenching because Esther would not even escape this ordeal just because she's in the king's house; the king's palace when all the other Jews are being killed. He's letting her know that although she was the queen and shared some of the king's power and wealth, her position did not mean that she did not need God's protection and wisdom. None of us are secure in our own strength in this political system. It's foolish to believe that wealth or position can make us resistant to danger.

4:14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?— Have you been somewhere and you wanted to say something about the wrong but couldn't; needed to do something but wouldn't? The courage just wasn't there; didn't even have the nerve? When you really think about it, the size of your enemy is very small against the Greatness of God! Let me say that again, the size of your enemy is very small against the Greatness of God! You're focusing too much on the enemy. That's what the Israelites did. They didn't see the giant grapes; they saw the giant people and themselves as grasshoppers. Two things Mordecai tells Esther (that sticks with me) "Do you think you will escape there in the palace, when all other Jews are killed?" (4:13); "and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this" (4:14). God wants to use us in those delicate situations whether talking to family in changes to be made, confronting a friend about a delicate subject, facing a hostile audience, dreading difficult subjects or putting them off. They will only come around again. And that time if you shun it off, God knows what to do. It passes to someone else, and we forfeit an important beautiful lesson God wanted us to learn, for you had already told God to use you. You said: *"I'm yours, I'll obey."* So, Mordecai kept pushing, he sends word back to Esther, telling her that *"if she hold her peace; keep quiet at a time like this, God will deliver the Jews from some other source, but she and her relative will die. So, who can say that*





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"You are brought into the kingdom for just such a time as this?" In ancient manuscripts, God is not specifically mentioned in the Book of Esther, but we know He's there among them!

4:15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,— Esther returns this answer to Mordecai. **4:16** Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. Esther knew how to wait—she's been through the process of beauty treatments for 12mos. It paid off! She knew how to stay the course—not play her hand too soon. God placed the right coaches in her life. Although she was an orphan,

- God placed her uncle Mordecai who guided her in godly teaching in her young life.
- Her second coach was the eunuch who found favor in her.

You see when you really make up your mind to do something, the way was already in place, but was just waiting for you. Esther trusted both of her mentors! She made up her mind after hearing the words: *"Do you think you will escape there in the palace, when all other Jews are killed?"* (4:13). Esther knew exactly what to do.

- Maybe she now understood that God was in control of all the events.
- Maybe she now understood why God had placed her in this position and made her queen.

She said *"go and gather all the Jews that are present in Shushan where the decree was given; fast with her meaning don't eat nor drink for 3days and 3nights, for she and her maidens will do the same. Afterwards, she will go before the king, for it was not according to the law, but if she perish, then she will perish."* She's laying it all on the line for her people. She was not fasting and praying to an idol god, but to the **"True God."** She was not putting her confidence in a pagan God, but to the **"True God"** for her uncle Mordecai had taught her better; had taught her who they are to serve; who they were not to bow down to. As the song goes: *"I'm gonna lay down my burdens..."* She got everyone involved, for this was not just her responsibility to wrestle with this alone. By calling a fast in action, Esther was asking the Jews to pray for God's help on **her** dangerous mission for she was the one who was asking to go before the king. She needed mutual support at a difficult time, and she laid her life on the line— **if I perish, I perish!**

4:17 So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther had commanded him. Mordecai went his way, leaving the king's palace gate and did as Esther had commanded of him.

III. RECEIVING THE KING'S FAVOR ESTER 5:1-2

5:1 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house. The third day was an important day for it was the end of the fasting and prayer and the day of action. Esther knew she had to look good, so she dressed for the occasion. Just because he was her husband, he was still the king. So, Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, just beyond the royal hall of the palace where the king was sitting upon the royal throne.

5:2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. It's amazing how God sits things up after you have fasted and prayed about something. What would take you years see come to pass, God perfects it in a moment. You just don't know how it will happen, but by faith you just know God will work it all out for your good. After fasting and praying, Esther knew it was time for action. *"Pray as if it all depended upon God, and act as if it all depended upon you!"* We are never in God's work alone. Esther is not just standing there but she's looking good, that she catches the king's eye. He had to see what God wanted him to see, remember God is a strategist. Esther needed to obtain favor from the





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king, and what do you know, the king holds out his golden scepter that's in his hand, which is what Esther needed, the permission of the king to come near him. And she came and touched the top of the scepter. **Favor is not that we're so good, but it's that God is so gracious!**

SUMMARY:

Hatach went at the request of the queen to where Mordecai was, in front of the king's gate, the street of the city to find out what was the trouble. Mordecai had learned of a deadly threat concerning the Jews, so he told Hatach all that had happened, for Haman promised to pay money into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. So, Mordecai gave Hatach a written copy of the decree, for it had been given in Shushan the palace (3:15) to destroy the Jews. He was to show this to Queen Esther, declare it to her, charge her to go to the king and beg for mercy and plead and intercede for the lives of the Jewish people which are her people. Mordecai realized that the only hope for the Jewish people was for Esther to intercede on their behalf, and thus gain the favor of the king in protecting the Jews. Hatach returned to Esther and gave to her the account of what Mordecai had said (4:6-9).

Esther gives Hatach a command to give to Mordecai for ³Mordecai is asking that Esther go into the presence of the king to plead for the Hebrew nation. Esther told him that she could not speak with the king without an appointment. An attempt to do so could result in death. The king had not called Esther into his presence in a month. Mordecai said that Esther would not escape from the death sentence even though she was queen. He proposed that Esther may have been chosen as queen for such a time as this to be a champion for her people. With great fear and resolve, Esther determined to approach the king. She asked that her people pray and fast for her over the following three days and three nights. Knowing the seriousness of requesting an audience with the king without an invitation she said, "If I perish, I perish." Mordecai went his way, leaving the king's palace gate and did as Esther had commanded of him (4:10-17).

On the third day, Esther put on her royal apparel, and she stood in the inner court of the king's house, just beyond the royal hall of the palace where the king was sitting upon the royal throne. And when the king gazed upon Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight: and the king held out the golden scepter that was in his hand to Esther. So, Esther drew near, and touched the top of the scepter allowing her to graciously come (5:1-2).

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