



DANUBE
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

ESTHER

The Hiddenness of
God

In Crisis and Courage



TIME LINE

Persian
Kings

CYRUS

XERXES

ARTEXERXES

ARTEXERXES

DARIUS (Ahasuerus)

Return to
Jerusalem

1st Return

2nd Return

3rd Return

Year

538 BC

483 BC

458 BC

444 BC

Bible

EZRA

ESTHER

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

HAGGAI

MALACHI

ZACHARIAH

Captivity
70 yrs



Esther 4:1-17

1 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. **2** He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. **3** And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. **4** When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. **5** Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was.

Esther 4:1-17

6 Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, **7** and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. **8** Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people. **9** And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. **10** Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, **11** All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days. **12** And they told Mordecai what Esther had said.

Esther 4:1-17

13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this? 15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, 16 Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish. 17 Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.



DANUBE
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

ESTHER

The Hiddenness of
God

In Crisis and Courage

CHAIN REACTION



Esther 3:12-15

12 Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded, was written to the king's satraps and to the governors over all the provinces and to the officials of all the peoples, to every province in its own script and every people in its own language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring. **13** Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. **14** A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province by proclamation to all the peoples to be ready for that day. **15** The couriers went out hurriedly by order of the king, and the decree was issued in Susa the citadel. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was thrown into confusion.



CRISIS AHEAD

Esther 4:1

1 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry.

Esther 4:1-17

1 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry.

HOW DOES GOD GET YOUR ATTENTION?

Esther 4:1

1 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry.

HOW DOES GOD GET YOUR ATTENTION?

CRISIS | 'krʌɪsɪs |

a time of intense difficulty or danger:

a time when a difficult or important decision must be made:

ESTHER 4:1-17

I. Recognizing the Crisis (Esther 4:1-5)

II. Responding with Courage (Esther 4:6-17)

III. Renewing our Faith (Esther 4:14)

ESTHER 4:1-17

I. Recognizing the Crisis (Esther 4:1-5)

- **Not all crises are immediately recognizable.**

Esther 4:1-4

1 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, **Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes**, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. 2 He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. 3 And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. 4 **When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her**, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them.

Esther 4:1-4

1 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. **2** He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. **3** And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, **there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.** **4** When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them.

Esther 4:1-4

Application:

Sometimes, we may be **unaware** of the crises around us, and that **ignorance** can hinder our ability to respond effectively.

Esther 4:1-4

Application:

Sometimes, we may be **unaware** of the crises around us, and that **ignorance** can hinder our ability to respond effectively.

On the one hand it's **Providential** that Esther is Queen in the Palace of the Persian Empire, but on the other hand there is a **danger** in that status.

Esther 4:1-4

Application:

Sometimes, we may be **unaware** of the crises around us, and that **ignorance** can hinder our ability to respond effectively.

We too can be isolated like Esther if we are not careful.

Esther 4:1-17

5 Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was.

Esther 4:1-17

5 Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was.

Recognizing the crisis is the first step.

Esther 4:1-17

5 Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was.

Recognizing the crisis is the first step.

“What’s pressing in on you right now in your life?”

“Is there anything on your mind you’d like to talk about?”

“On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your stress or anxiety level recently?”

Esther 4:1-4

Application:

Sometimes, we may be **unaware** of the crises around us, and that **ignorance** can hinder our ability to respond effectively.

We too can be isolated like Esther if we are not careful.

RESOURCES

PERSECUTED CHURCH

- [Open Doors](#) provides Bibles and other Christian materials, to prepare believers for persecution and equip them to maintain a witness to the Gospel.
- [Voice of the Martyrs](#) provides Bibles, literature, radio broadcasts and other aid to help persecuted Christians spread the gospel. VDM also sends material aid.
- [Bible League International](#) provides Bibles for persecuted Christians. It also trains national believers to plant new churches in countries of persecution.
- [International Justice Mission](#) is a global organization with the plan to eliminate the slave trade everywhere.

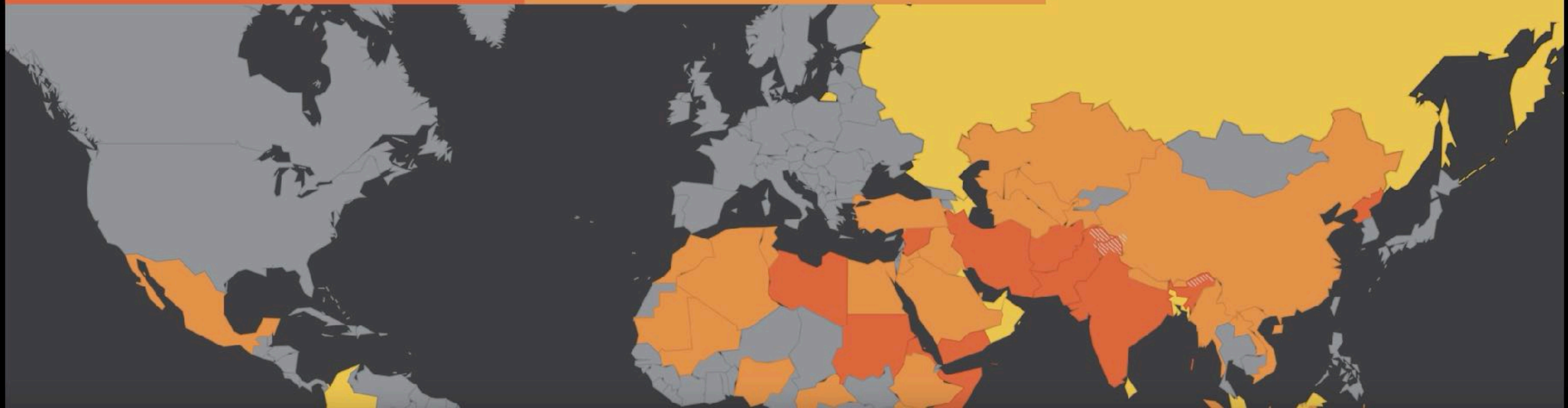
WORLD WATCH LIST

Click on map for details

Extreme Persecution

Very High Persecution

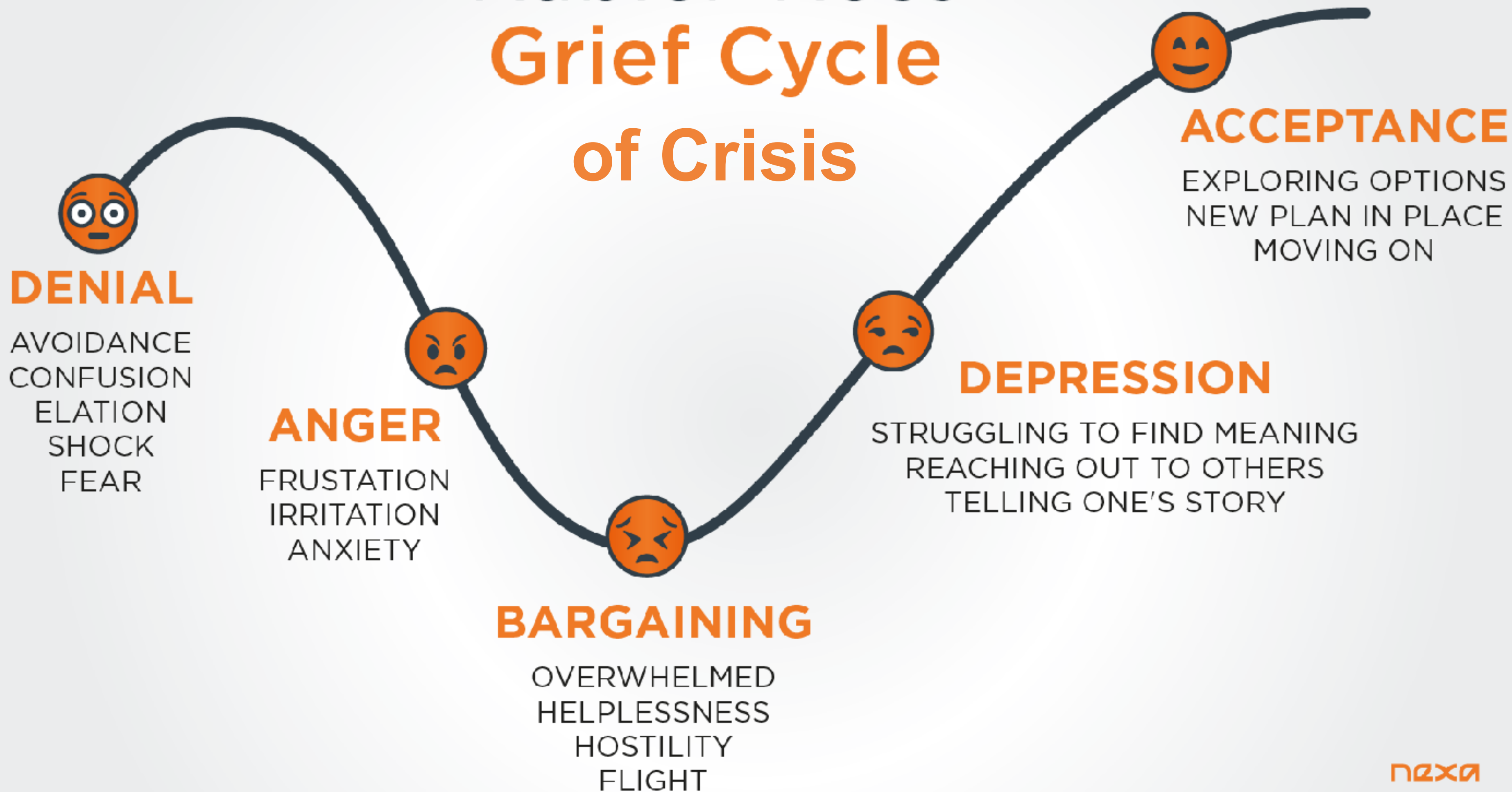
High Persecution



Esther 4

How do you act and react in those crises?

Kübler-Ross Grief Cycle of Crisis



nexa

INFORMATION
& COMMUNICATION

EMOTIONAL
SUPPORT

GUIDANCE
AND DIRECTION

ESTHER 4:10-17

I. Recognizing the Crisis (Esther 4:1-5)

II. Responding with Courage (Esther 4:6-17)

ESTHER 4:10-17

II. Responding with Courage (Esther 4:6-17)

7 and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. 8 Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might **show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people.** 9 And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. 10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, 11 All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days. 12 And they told Mordecai what Esther had said.

ESTHER 4:10-17

II. Responding with Courage (Esther 4:6-17)

7 and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. 8 Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people. 9 And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. 10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, **11 All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days.** 12 And they told Mordecai what Esther had said.

ESTHER 4:10-17

II. Responding with Courage (Esther 4:6-17)

13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, **Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews.** **14** For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

ESTHER 4:10-17

II. Responding with Courage (Esther 4:6-17)

13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

A faith challenge that takes courage!

ESTHER 4:10-17

II. Responding with Courage (Esther 4:6-17)

Esther is the only person in the story with two names—her Hebrew name, Hadassah, and her Persian name, Esther. He reads this as an indication of the identity crisis with which she is faced when, after being raised as a Jew, she is thrust into the king's court where she must live as a pagan.

Leland Ryken

A faith challenge that takes courage!

ESTHER 4:10-17

II. Responding with Courage (Esther 4:6-17)

*Are you going to identify with the Persian Empire,
or the Covenant people of God?*

ESTHER 4:10-17

II. Responding with Courage (Esther 4:6-17)

15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, 16 Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and **if I perish, I perish**. 17 Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

Esther Responds with Courage:

To do what is right even if it is frightening and even if we might suffer?

ESTHER 4:1-17

I. Recognizing the Crisis (Esther 4:1-5)

II. Responding with Courage (Esther 4:6-17)

III. Renewing our Faith (Esther 4:14)

14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Esther 4:1-17

13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this? 15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, 16 Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish. 17 Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.



**Richard and Sabina
Wurmbrand**

ESTHER 4:1-17

I. Recognizing the Crisis (Esther 4:1-5)

II. Responding with Courage (Esther 4:6-17)

III. Renewing our Faith (Esther 4:14)

14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?



DANUBE
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

ESTHER

The Hiddenness of
God

In Crisis and Courage