



JANUARY 23RD, 2022 | PASTOR GLEN BARNES

THE CHARACTERS:

King Xerxes: Powerful but erratic King of Persia.

Loved to Party.

“ For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty. When these days were over, the king gave a banquet, lasting seven days (...)”

~ ESTHER 1:4-5a (NIV)

Queen Vashti: King Xerxes' first wife.

Banished because she dares to take a stand.

“ But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.”

~ ESTHER 1:12 (NIV)

Esther: Orphaned Jewish Girl.

Raised by Mordecai then becomes queen of Persia.

“ (...) Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.”

~ ESTHER 2:7b (NIV)

Mordecai: Jewish official in Xerxes' court.

Foils plot against the King and challenges Esther to use her influence to save God's people.

“ All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.”

~ ESTHER 3:2 (NIV)

Haman: The Villain.

Second in command to Xerxes but in anger and pride determines to exterminate all Jews.

“ When Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow down or show him respect, he was filled with rage. He had learned of Mordecai's nationality, so he decided it was not enough to lay hands on Mordecai alone. Instead, he looked for a way to destroy all the Jews throughout the entire empire of Xerxes.”

~ ESTHER 3:5-6 (NIV)

Haman is a descendent of _____ . (see 1 Samuel 15:1-11)

THE PLOT:

Haman's Scheme: _____ all the Jews (Esther 3:12-14).

Pur: _____

Pur lands on: _____ .

Mordecai's Plea: Esther 4:13-14

Who knows if you have come to royal position _____ ?

Esther's Courage: Esther 4:15-16

"I will go to the king even though it is against the law and if I perish, I perish!"

Esther's Request: Private Banquet with Xerxes and Haman

"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."

~ ESTHER 7:3b (NIV)

"We may throw the dice, but the Lord determines how they fall." ~ PROVERBS 16:33 (NLT)

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

What is your Adar the 13th?

What situation does God have you in for such a time as this?

How are you made for this moment?

DISCUSSION Questions:

- 1 - Can you think of a time when God was working in your life "behind the scenes" even when you did not see it?
- 2 - Review the story of Esther and what you just watched in the Bible Project. What are some of the surprising parts of the story to you?
- 3 - Some of the most inspiring words of the book of Esther come in 4:12-16.
- How would you describe Mordecai's statement to Esther in verse 14? Have you ever felt like you were in a "for such a time as this" situation?

- How would you describe Esther's response in verse 15-16? What do you think she was thinking and feeling as she spoke those words?

- 4 - The 13th of Adar was the day "the dice" originally chose for the destruction of the Jews. But that day later becomes a day God's people are allowed to defend themselves in a powerful way. Can you think of a situation that seemed terribly bad but eventually became something victorious?
- 5 - As you think about the unique times that we live in what do you think it means for Christians to live for Christ in "such a time as this"?



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