



BASED ON ESTHER

**FOR
SUCH
A TIME
AS THIS**



**AN ESTHER
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE
FOR AGES 11-14**

How to Use This Book

Welcome to an adventure where YOU become Queen Esther!

How it works:

- Start at Section 1
- Read each section carefully
- When you reach a choice, decide what YOU would do
- Jump to the section number your choice sends you to
- Some paths lead to courage, some to comfort, and some to regret"

Tips:

- You can read this alone or with a group (vote on choices together!)
- Try different paths to see how the story changes
- There are 6 different endings—can you find them all?
- Keep your Bible open to Book of Esther as you read

Remember: Esther was placed in the palace “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14)

A New Queen?

Section 1

You are a young Jewish girl named Esther, living far from your people's homeland in the Persian Empire. You and your cousin Mordecai have tried to honor God quietly while living among people who don't know Him. One day, messengers arrive with surprising news: King Xerxes is looking for a new queen, and many young women are being brought to the palace.

You are chosen to be taken to the royal harem to be prepared to meet the king. It's scary and overwhelming. Mordecai warns you not to tell anyone that you are Jewish, at least for now.

What do you do?

- If you decide to resist as much as possible and hope to be sent home quickly, go to **Section 2**.
- If you decide to cooperate, do your best, and trust that God might use this, go to **Section 3**.

Hoping It All Goes Away

Section 2

You drag your feet, complain to the servants, and do the bare minimum. You don't listen to advice, and when you finally meet the king, you are distant and cold. The king picks someone else as queen, and you are sent back to a quiet life.

You avoid danger, but you also miss the chance to be in a place where God could use you to help your people. Life goes on, but you never know what might have happened.

END 1 – "The Life That Slipped By"

- Sometimes avoiding risk means missing your purpose.
- Want to try again? Go back to **Section 1** and make a different choice!

Chosen Queen

Section 3

You decide to be respectful and wise. You listen to the palace servant Hegai and follow his advice about what to bring to meet the king. When your turn comes, the king is pleased with you above all the others, and you are chosen as queen.

A royal crown is placed on your head. You still keep your Jewish identity a secret, as Mordecai advised. Time passes. One day, Mordecai overhears two officials plotting to assassinate the king and sends word through you. The plot is stopped, and the men are punished, but Mordecai's help is soon forgotten.

Things seem calm... until a powerful official named Haman comes along.

What do you do?

- If you try to stay out of politics and focus only on enjoying being queen, go to **Section 4**.
- If you keep listening for news from Mordecai and stay alert to what's happening outside the palace, go to **Section 5**.

The Comfortable Palace

Section 4

You close your doors to outside worries. You enjoy the food, the clothes, and the attention of palace life. You rarely send or receive messages from Mordecai anymore.

When trouble begins for your people, you barely notice at first. By the time you realize how serious things are, you feel powerless and disconnected. You are safe for the moment, but your courage was never tested, and your role as queen becomes mostly about comfort, not calling.

END 2 – "Comfort Over Calling"

- A safe life isn't always a meaningful life.
- Want to try again? Go back to **Section 3** and choose differently!

A Terrible Decree

Section 5

You keep in close contact with Mordecai. One day, your servants tell you that Mordecai is outside the king's gate, wearing sackcloth and ashes, weeping loudly. You send him clothes, but he refuses them. Eventually, you send a trusted servant to ask what's wrong.

Mordecai sends back a copy of a new law: Haman has convinced the king to sign a decree that all Jews in the empire will be destroyed on a certain day. Mordecai begs you to go to the king, reveal that you are Jewish, and plead for your people.

You know that anyone who goes to the king without being invited can be put to death unless he holds out his golden scepter. And he hasn't called for you in thirty days.

What do you do?

- If you tell Mordecai that you can't risk your own life, go to **Section 6**.
- If you hesitate but ask for some time to think and pray, go to **Section 7**.

Protecting Yourself

Section 6

You send a message back to Mordecai explaining the law and how dangerous it is to go to the king uninvited. You say you're sorry, but there is nothing you can do.

Mordecai replies, *"Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape... Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"* His words sting, but you still decide to stay silent.

The decree against the Jews moves forward. You remain queen, but your silence becomes a heavy secret and a source of regret for the rest of your life.

END 3 – "Silence in the Palace"

- Sometimes the cost of safety is living with what you didn't do.
- Want to try again? Go back to **Section 5** and choose differently!

Three Days of Fasting

Section 7

You are afraid, but you can't ignore Mordecai's words. You send him a message: *"Gather all the Jews in the city and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, and my maids and I will fast as well. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. If I perish, I perish."*

For three days, you and your servants fast and pray. The palace feels strangely quiet. Every growl of your stomach reminds you that you are choosing to trust God rather than yourself.

After three days, it is time to act.

What do you do?

- If you decide the risk is still too great and stop the plan, go back to **Section 6**.
- If you decide to go to the king, trusting God with the outcome, go to **Section 8**.

Approaching the King

Section 8

You dress in your royal robes and stand in the inner court, facing the throne room. Your heart is pounding. If the king is angry, he can order your death immediately.

The king sees you standing there. For a split second, time freezes. Then he smiles, holds out the golden scepter, and invites you to come closer, asking, "*What is it, Queen Esther? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you.*"

You have a chance to speak, but your words matter. Blurted out in fear, they might be ignored or misunderstood.

What do you do?

- If you immediately blurt out everything about Haman and the decree, go to **Section 9**.
- If you invite the king and Haman to a special banquet first, to prepare the right moment, go to **Section 10**.

Rushed Words

Section 9

You step forward and immediately pour out all your fears—about being Jewish, about the decree, about Haman, all in one rushed speech. The king is shocked and confused. He doesn't fully understand what you're saying, and Haman quickly argues that you're exaggerating. The moment becomes chaotic.

The king sends everyone away to "*sort it out later*," and the urgency of the crisis fades in his mind. Haman quietly keeps working on his evil plan. You spoke, but the timing and planning were off.

END 4 – "Words Without Wisdom"

- Courage needs wisdom. Even good intentions need good timing.
- Want to try again? Go back to **Section 8** and choose differently!

The First Banquet

Section 10

Instead of revealing everything at once, you invite the king and Haman to a special banquet you will prepare. The king is honored and agrees. That night, you host them. They enjoy the food and the atmosphere. Again the king asks what you want, promising to grant your request.

Your heart races. You could speak right now, but somehow it doesn't feel like the exact right moment.

What do you do?

- If you decide to speak at the first banquet, go to **Section 11**.
- If you ask the king and Haman to come to a second banquet the next day, go to **Section 12**.

Almost There

Section 11

You decide to reveal part of the problem. You tell the king that a terrible threat hangs over your people, and that someone is plotting their destruction. The king is upset but doesn't yet realize the full picture. Haman acts surprised, and you can tell the king is unsettled but not fully ready to act.

That night, the king can't sleep. He calls for the records to be read and discovers that Mordecai once saved his life and was never rewarded. This helps your cause, but because your request wasn't fully clear, things move slowly. Some Jews are rescued later, but not all, and Haman's influence stretches longer than it should have.

END 5 – "Half-Spoken Courage"

- Partial courage brings partial results.
- Want to try again? Go back to **Section 10** and choose differently!

The Second Banquet

Section 12

You invite the king and Haman to come to a second banquet the next day. That night, God is at work: the king cannot sleep and orders the royal chronicles to be read. He hears how Mordecai once revealed the assassination plot and realizes Mordecai was never honored.

The next morning, the king asks Haman how to honor someone the king delights in. Haman, thinking the king means him, suggests a very public honor. To his horror, the king tells him to do all of that for Mordecai the Jew. Haman's pride begins to crack, and his downfall quietly begins.

At the second banquet, the king again asks what you want, promising to grant your request. This time, the moment feels right.

What do you do?

- If you still hold back out of fear, go to **Section 13**.
- If you fully reveal the truth about who you are and what Haman has done, go to **Section 14**.

Missing the Moment

Section 13

The king asks again, but your voice fails you. You change the subject and talk about smaller requests—maybe better protection for the palace or some gifts for your servants.

The king is kind and grants those small things, but your people still face the deadly decree. You leave with a sinking feeling that you missed the moment you were prepared for.

END 6 – "The Missed Opportunity"

- Even after all the preparation, fear can still win at the last moment.
- Want to try again? Go back to **Section 12** and choose differently!

Courage at the Table

Section 14

With the king and Haman sitting at your table, you finally speak clearly. You say, *"If I have found favor with you, my king, and if it pleases you, spare my life—this is my request. And spare the lives of my people, for we have been sold to be destroyed."*

The king is shocked and demands to know who would do such a thing. You point to Haman and say, *"This wicked enemy is Haman!"* The king storms out in fury. Haman panics and begs you for his life.

Soon, Haman is judged and punished. His own devices fall back on him. The king cannot cancel the original law, but he issues a new command allowing your people to defend themselves. When the day of danger comes, the Jews are ready, and they are saved instead of destroyed.

Your courage becomes a turning point in history. You were truly in the palace *"for such a time as this."*

END 7 – "For Such a Time as This"

- When you trust God and step into your purpose, He uses you to change history!
- Congratulations! You reached the victorious ending. Want to explore other paths? Go back to **Section 1!**

All the Endings

How many endings have you discovered? Check them off as you find them!

- **END 1 – "The Life That Slipped By"**
 - Resisting your calling and missing your purpose
- **END 2 – "Comfort Over Calling"**
 - Choosing safety and comfort over God's mission
- **END 3 – "Silence in the Palace"**
 - Protecting yourself but abandoning your people
- **END 4 – "Words Without Wisdom"**
 - Having courage but missing the right timing
- **END 5 – "Half-Spoken Courage"**
 - Speaking up but not fully trusting the moment
- **END 6 – "The Missed Opportunity"**
 - Preparing well but failing to act when it matters
- **END 7 – "For Such a Time as This"**
 - Trusting God fully and fulfilling your purpose

Challenge: Can you find all 7 endings? Try different paths and see how Esther's choices changed everything!

Memory Verse: Esther 4:14 (NIV)

"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther's Five Courage Choices

Esther faced five key moments that required courage. Here are **FIVE** truths you can carry when facing your own "*for such a time as this*" moments:

- **CHOICE 1: Stay Connected to Your People**
 - Esther kept listening to Mordecai. Don't isolate yourself from community when life gets comfortable.
- **CHOICE 2: Face the Truth**
 - When Mordecai told her about the decree, she didn't pretend it wasn't happening. Face reality, even when it's scary.
- **CHOICE 3: Fast and Pray**
 - Before acting, Esther and her community fasted for three days. Seek God before making big moves.
- **CHOICE 4: "*If I Perish, I Perish*"**
 - Esther decided God's purpose was worth the risk. Sometimes courage means accepting the cost.
- **CHOICE 5: Use Wisdom with Courage**
 - Esther was brave, but she was also strategic. She didn't rush—she planned, prayed, and acted at the right moment.

What Are YOUR "For Such a Time as This" Moments?

Think about places where God has put YOU:

At school:

In your family:

In your friend group:

Online:

In your church/youth group:

Now ask: What if God placed me here for a reason?

Discussion Questions

Use these to think deeper about Esther's story (great for small groups or journaling):

1. Which ending did you reach first? How did that feel?
2. Where did Esther show the most courage in this story?
3. When have you been tempted to stay quiet when you should have spoken up?
4. What does "If I perish, I perish" look like for you today? (What risks might God be asking you to take?)
5. How does Esther's story show that God works even when His name isn't mentioned?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for placing me where I am—in my family, my school, my friend group—for a reason. Help me to see that You might be preparing me "for such a time as this."

Give me courage like Esther to speak up when I should, to take risks when You ask, and to trust that You are working even when I can't see it.

Help me not to choose comfort over calling. Make me brave.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

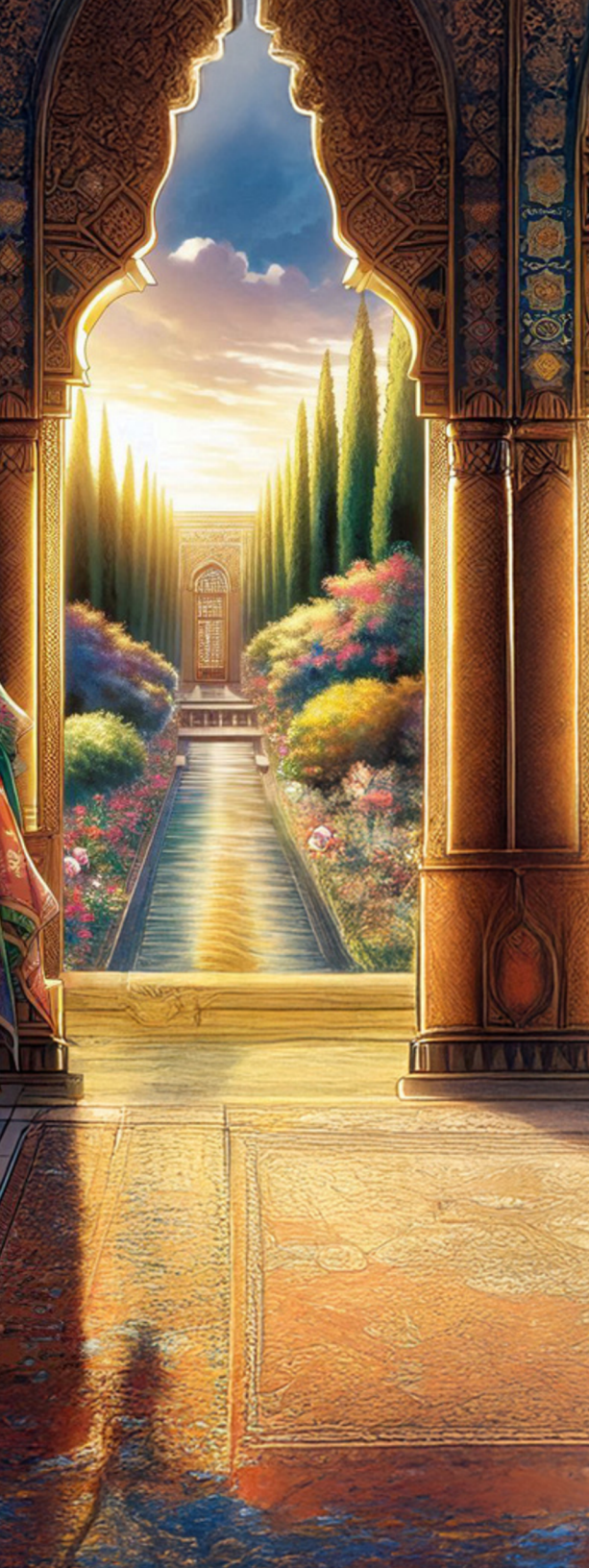
Read the full story in your Bible: The Book of Esther
"For such a time as this!"

Created for ages 11–14 | Based on the Book of Esther



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Esther was an ordinary Jewish girl who became queen of the Persian Empire—and then discovered her people were marked for destruction. She had a choice: stay silent and safe in the palace, or risk everything by speaking up. Mordecai’s words still echo today: “Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

Inside you will:

- Make decisions at key moments in her story
- Explore 7 different possible endings
- See how courage, timing, and prayer all work together
- Ask what “for such a time as this” might mean in your own school, family, and friend group today

Scripture basis:
The Book of Esther

Recommended age:
11-14

“For such a time as this”
Esther 4:14