

God, Unseen but Present

The Book of Esther

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Part 3: “For Such a Time as This”

Question: What do you do when you realize God may be calling you to act, at great personal risk?

Esther Chapter 4 marks a turning point in the story. The decree of destruction is no longer theoretical, it is public, irreversible, and terrifying. Mordecai mourns openly, and the Jewish people throughout the empire grieve with fasting and lament. Esther, sheltered in the palace, is initially unaware of the full crisis. When she learns the truth, she hesitates because approaching the king without being summoned could mean death. Mordecai challenges her with a powerful reminder: perhaps she has been placed in her royal position “*for such a time as this.*” The chapter ends with Esther choosing courage over comfort, calling for a fast, and preparing to risk her life. God is still not mentioned—but faith is now moving people to action.

READ ESTHER CHAPTER 4

Section	Description	Verses	Key Details
I	Mourning Among the Jews	4:1–3	Mordecai mourns publicly in sackcloth and ashes. Jews throughout the empire fast, weep, and lament.
II	Esther Learns of the Crisis	4:4–9	Esther is distressed but initially unaware of the decree. Mordecai communicates through Hathach, urging her to act.
III	Esther’s Hesitation	4:10–12	Esther explains the danger: approaching the king uninvited could result in death unless he extends the golden scepter.

IV	Mordecai's Challenge	4:13–14	Mordecai warns Esther not to remain silent. Deliverance will come—but she may miss her purpose. “For such a time as this.”
V	Esther's Decision	4:15–17	Esther calls for a fast and resolves to go to the king: “If I perish, I perish.” Courage replaces fear.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Fasting played a vital part in Esther Chapter 4, so should Christians fast as a way to get things from God? Why or why not?
2. Why has there always been such hatred toward Jews?
3. What did Mordecai mean when he told Esther, “*And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?*” (Esther 4:14). How does this relate to us today?
4. What should Christians do when they realize God may be calling them to act at great personal risk?

KEY POINTS

- Our response to a crisis often reveals what we truly believe about God.
- Fear is real—but it does not have to control our decisions.
- God often positions people strategically for His purposes.
- Courage grows when we shift focus from self to God’s purposes.

THREE TAKEAWAYS

- Recognize that God may have placed you _____ are for a purpose.
- Choose _____ over _____ when God calls you to act.
- Trust God’s plan—even when obedience involves _____.