

TEXT NOTES FOR: 'A Time Such As This'

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Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Queen Esther is one of three through whom the greatest moments of salvation for the Israelite nation occurred (Moses, Esther, and Jesus). All adopted children

Overview of Esther

* King Ahasuerus/Xerxes (486-685 BC) over 127 provinces of Persia (all near eastern world). Called for Vashti (Queen) to present herself. She rejected the command and she was dethroned.

* A call was put out for all the young beautiful virgins to be brought to the palace to vie for the crown. Mordecai lived in the town of Shushan/Susa and Esther/Haddasah was taken to the palace (probably not voluntarily). She kept her roots/family a secret because Mordecai told her to.

* She found favor with the chief Eunuch and he trained her to be the queen. Xerxes found her to be the most beautiful/pleasing after her night with him.

* Mordecai thwarted an assassination attempt on Xerxes by warning Esther of it and she sent word to stop it.

* Haman (an Amalekite) hated Jews and Mordecai (because they would not bow down. He asked the king to exterminate Israel and increase public funds by 67% (think about Hitler in the 1930s/1940s) and King Xerxes gave a year to do so, and the signet ring to seal the deal.

* Mordecai being an official knew the plan and sent message to Esther warning her and asking for her assistance.

* Esther went to the King (illegal) and could have been killed had he not been pleased to see her. He offered her "up to half my kingdom" (Salime and John the Baptist) and she asked him to a wine banquet. She called the King and Haman in for 3 consecutive nights of banquets. She called the Israelites of Susa to pray and fast for her.

* The night before the third banquet Xerxes had been listening to the chronicles and heard how Mordecai thwarted an assassination attempt and was never reward. Haman came in that that moment (plotting to kill Mordecai) and the king asked how he should reward a faithful servant. Haman, thinking it was him the king wanted to honor, suggested a very extravagant reward. Then the king had Haman carry out the reward for Mordecai.

* At the third banquet Esther asked for the sparing of the Jews and pointed out Haman as the plotter of the evil. Xerxes called for papers to be written overthrowing the previous decree and Haman threw himself on Esther (reclining for the meal) which was equivalent of a sexual assault.

* Haman was executed on the gallows he'd erected for Mordecai. A proclamation that the

Jews were allowed to protect themselves against the previous proclamation was put out. At the appointed day, Jews killed 300 aggressors who were trying to kill them, but did not keep any plunder.

* The Feast of Purim (casting lots) because the date was determined by casting lots to determine the will of the gods, but it bowed to the Will of the Almighty God.

She was placed where she was for such a time as this (Esther 4:14).

Have you come to the Kingdom for such a time as this? The kingdom of God is HERE.

You have a purpose: Spread the gospel because of who you are and this determines how you can uniquely serve God. (in local communities, on the internet)

Before He knit you in your mother's womb, HE KNEW YOU. (Psalm 139:13)

He allowed your tragedies to shape you, make you stronger.

Be prepared to give a DEFENSE for the joy that is within you. How God has personally worked in our lives.

Weapons of warfare are not carnal. Make sure you are fully dressed. Esther was dressed, and be prepared for the consequences. (Ephesians 6)

God is found not in our mountaintop moments but in our valleys...with PRAYER AND FASTING.

Purim coincides with Lent a season of prayer and fasting.

Daniel prayed for 21 days straight, but his prayers were hindered in the spiritual realm. (Daniel 10)

Weapons of our warfare are not guns, spreading lies or retaliation. Vengeance is mine says the Lord.

God is our provider, defender, healer and he called us for such a time as this.

Our hope is ETERNALLY SECURE because we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

HE CALLED YOU FOR HIS PURPOSE.