For Such A Time As This Wed 7/22/20

Esther 3 (NKJV)

**3**After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who *were* with him.

**2**And all the king’s servants who *were* within the king’s gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.

**3**Then the king’s servants who *were* within the king’s gate said to Mordecai, “Why do you transgress the king’s command?”

**4**Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told *it* to Haman, to see whether Mordecai’s words would stand; for *Mordecai* had told them that he *was* a Jew.

**5**When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath.

**6**But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai.

**7**In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that *is,* the lot), before Haman to determine the day and the month, until *it fell on the* twelfth *month,* which *is* the month of Adar.

**8**Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws *are* different from all *other* people’s, and they do not keep the king’s laws. Therefore it *is* not fitting for the king to let them remain.

**9**If it pleases the king, let *a decree* be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring *it* into the king’s treasuries.”

**10**So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

**11**And the king said to Haman, “The money and the people *are* given to you, to do with them as seems good to you.”

**12**Then the king’s scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and *a decree* was written according to all that Haman commanded—to the king’s satraps, to the governors who *were* over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king’s signet ring.

**13**And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king’s provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month, which *is* the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions.

**14**A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day.

**15**The couriers went out, hastened by the king’s command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

# Esther 4 (NKJV)

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

**2**He went as far as the front of the king’s gate, for no one *might* enter the king’s gate clothed with sackcloth.

**3**And in every province where the king’s command and decree arrived, *there was* great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

**4**So Esther’s maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was deeply distressed. Then she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept *them.*

**5**Then Esther called Hathach, *one* of the king’s eunuchs whom he had appointed to attend her, and she gave him a command concerning Mordecai, to learn what and why this *was.*

**6**So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square that *was* in front of the king’s gate.

**7**And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king’s treasuries to destroy the Jews.

**8**He also gave him a copy of the written decree for their destruction, which was given at Shushan, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her, and that he might command her to go in to the king to make supplication to him and plead before him for her people.

**9**So Hathach returned and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

**10**Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai:

**11**“All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, *he has* but one law: put *all* to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days.”

**12**So they told Mordecai Esther’s words.

**13**And Mordecai told *them* to answer Esther: “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king’s palace any more than all the other Jews.

**14**For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have 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 who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which *is* against the law; and if I perish, I perish!”

**17**So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

 *Get Ready.*

# Esther 5:9-14 (NKJV)

**9**So Haman went out that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king’s gate, and that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with indignation against Mordecai.

**10**Nevertheless Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and called for his friends and his wife Zeresh.

**11**Then Haman told them of his great riches, the multitude of his children, everything in which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and servants of the king.

**12**Moreover Haman said, “Besides, Queen Esther invited no one but me to come in with the king to the banquet that she prepared; and tomorrow I am again invited by her, along with the king.

**13**Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate.”

**14**Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Let a gallows be made, fifty cubits high, and in the morning suggest to the king that Mordecai be hanged on it; then go merrily with the king to the banquet.” And the thing pleased Haman; so he had the gallows made.

# Esther 6:1-11 (NKJV)

**6**That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

**2**And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

**3**Then the king said, “What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?” And the king’s servants who attended him said, “Nothing has been done for him.”

**4**So the king said, “Who *is* in the court?” Now Haman had *just* entered the outer court of the king’s palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

**5**The king’s servants said to him, “Haman is there, standing in the court.” And the king said, “Let him come in.”

**6**So Haman came in, and the king asked him, “What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?” Now Haman thought in his heart, “Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?”

**7**And Haman answered the king, “*For* the man whom the king delights to honor,

**8**let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head.

**9**Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king’s most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: ‘Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!’ ”

**10**Then the king said to Haman, “Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king’s gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken.”

**11**So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, “Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!”

# Esther 8:1-8 (NKJV)

**8**On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he *was related* to her.

**2**So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.

**3**Now Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored him with tears to counteract the evil of Haman the Agagite, and the scheme which he had devised against the Jews.

**4**And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king,

**5**and said, “If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing *seems* right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to annihilate the Jews who *are* in all the king’s provinces.

**6**For how can I endure to see the evil that will come to my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my countrymen?”

**7**Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, “Indeed, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows because he *tried to* lay his hand on the Jews.

**8**You yourselves write *a decree* concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king’s name, and seal *it* with the king’s signet ring; for whatever is written in the king’s name and sealed with the king’s signet ring no one can revoke.”