
For Such A Time As This
"A very Real Threat"
Esther 3

01-23-22

Introduction: We are working our way through the book of Esther where we see the sovereignty of God fleshed out in real life drama.

1. Because He is omniscient, He sees a looming threat against His people before it is visible.
2. Because He is omnipotent, He takes action to protect His people.
3. So far in our study we have focused on:
 - How God worked in the Persian Royal Court to remove Vashti as queen.
 - How He elevated Esther to replace Vashti as Queen.
 - How He elevated Mordecai as a hero who saved the king from assassination.
4. As we come to chapter 3, the invisible threat becomes a reality.
5. It's interesting to note the timeline for these events.
 - Vashti offends the king in his third year (1:3).
 - Esther replaces Vashti near the end of year 7 (2:16).
 - The treat surfaces in the 12th year (3:7).
6. That means some 9 years before the treat, God was at work.
7. This morning we'll focus on how the treat evolved.
8. As we do, we can better safeguard ourselves against evil.

I. The Roots Of Genocide

A. Pride/Ego

B. The Corruption Of Power

C. Ancient Feuds

II. The Proposed Evil

A. False Accusation

B. Financial Solution

III. The Treat Becomes Law

A. An Unsuspecting King

B. A Confused Population

Conclusion: Although these things happened thousands of years ago, they can teach some important lessons.

1. The first is the reality of persecution for righteousness's sake. Be aware ... be strong.
2. A second is the insidious nature of sin. Pride, power grievance & grudges can defile our hearts. Guard your heart, be quick to forgive.
3. Another lesson reminds us of the danger of engaging in gossip. Don't speak it, don't listen to it.
4. A final lesson is a reminder that life in a broken world will experience injustice. Once again, be aware ... and be strong!
5. We've already seen God working to thwart this evil. Satan did not get the last word in Esther's day ... and he will not in ours!