



# ESTHER

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

## STUDY GUIDE

## WEEK 4

Welcome back to Week 4 of Esther! I hope you viewed the Teaching Video for Week 3 already, if not go ahead and do that now. In last week's study, chapters 5 and 6, we saw Esther go before the King after fasting for three days, and invite him to an impromptu banquet, along with Haman. Haman was joyful at the banquet, but later became enraged when he encountered Mordecai who refused to bow. Haman in his fury, had gallows built to destroy Mordecai, but in the same night, the King couldn't sleep and his servant happened to read aloud to him the account of Mordecai saving his life. The King wished to pay honor to a certain someone, who Haman assumed to be himself. It turns out that the King wanted to honor Mordecai for reporting the assassination plot that in turn saved his life. Haman was commanded to honor Mordecai by squiring him through the town square in royal robes. Haman returned home angry and humiliated, but is soon escorted to Esther's second banquet. This is where we pick up today!

### **CHAPTER 7 - ESTHER'S SECOND BANQUET**

In chapter seven, we're going to see Esther get straight to the point. She's held her tongue long enough and now it's time to get this dirty little secret out in the open and expose the wicked Haman for who he is.

#### **Read Esther 7:1-6.**

1. Who went to dine with Queen Esther at the Banquet? (vs. 1)

2. What question did the King ask Esther again? (vs. 2)

3. What did Esther request? (vs. 3)

4. What wording did she use to convey to the King the dire situation she and her people were in? (vs. 4)
  
5. How did the King respond? (vs. 5)
  
6. And now it was time for the big reveal. Would Esther have the courage to call out the man responsible for all this? Yes, she did! How did Esther describe Haman to the King? (vs. 6)
  
7. How did Haman feel when Esther called him out? (vs. 6)
  
- Read Esther 7:7-10.**
8. How did Haman plead for his life, and how did this get misconstrued by the King? (vs. 7-8)
  
9. What did Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, bring to the King's attention? (vs. 9)
  
10. After hearing this, what was the King's order, and how was this ironic? (vs. 9-10)

**PERSONAL REFLECTION -**

1. In chapter seven, we see God turn the tables around for Esther. The King didn't take kindly to Haman plotting the death of the Queen and her people. And the King was quick to make the decision to hang Haman on the very same gallows that had been built for Mordecai. Our Savior is in the business of "turning the tables" in our favor as well. There are many times that Scripture talks about how God completely changed our situation for the better. Look up the following Scriptures and list out the ways that God turns the tables for us. (Be sure to list our condition before and then how God changes it for us.)

**A. Colossians 1:13-14 -**

**B. Psalm 30:11 -**

**C. Isaiah 1:18 -**

**D. Isaiah 61:3 -**

**E. Psalm 30:5 -****F. John 5:24 -**

There is a new song out by Elevation Worship called "Graves into Gardens." And the words to that song have really struck me during the last week that my husband was in the hospital. Take a moment and circle the phrases that this song says God turns around for us. To the right of the lyrics, describe a time that God has done any of these things for you.

**You turn mourning to dancing  
You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory  
You're the only one who can  
You turn mourning to dancing  
You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory  
You're the only one who can**

**You turn graves into garden  
You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways  
You're the only one who can  
You're the only one who can**

I love how our great God loves to turn our situations, our lives, our eternal destiny around for our good and His glory!





**Read Esther 8:9-17.**

6. Summarize what took place in verses 9-10 in your own words.

7. What did the new law give the Jewish people permission to do? (vs. 11-12)

8. Where did the couriers take a copy of this new law? (vs. 13-14)

9. List out what Mordecai was now clothed in. Be specific. How is this different than the Mordecai in Esther 4:1? (vs.15)

10. Describe the attitude of the Jewish people now that Esther and Mordecai had put a new law in place? (vs. 16-17)

**PERSONAL REFLECTION -**

1. Haman is dead, but the evil that he started was still wreaking havoc on the Jewish people. The evil actions of one person can still impact others, until someone finds a way to stop it. Thankfully Esther and Mordecai, along with the providence of God, found a way to stop this madness by writing a new law giving the Jews permission to defend themselves. As we reflect on our own lives, is there something that you need God's help to put a stop to? Something that has gone on too long and you know it's time to ask God for His help to stop it in its tracks? If so, write a prayer to God asking Him to move on your behalf to help this come to an end.
  
2. Esther had to go before the King again the second time to help her people. There is a lesson for us here in the way that we go before our King in prayer. Sometimes we must persevere in prayer. Sometimes one time is not enough. We must continue to ask in faith for what we know is right. Look up James 5:16-18 and write in your own words what this passage teaches us about prayer.
  
3. God turned the sorrow of the Jewish people into joy when they realized they could protect and defend themselves against any enemy! In the New Testament in John 16:20-23 Jesus spoke of sorrow being turned to joy as well. He knew His disciples would sorrow at His death, but they would soon have joy at His resurrection. Can you think of a time in your life when God turned your sorrow into joy? If so describe it below.

**THE BIG STORY** - We're studying Esther, but really we're studying God. Looking at the "Big Story" means we are recognizing that God is the central person in the entire Bible. Everything is about Him. What did you learn about God in this story? What do these Scriptures teach you about the God we serve, His heart for His people, His nature, and His character? Pray and ask God to help you see Him in the storyline, and capture your thoughts below.

**THE LITTLE STORY** - The Story of Esther is a smaller story within the Big Story of God. We can take an imaginary magnifying glass, and peer down throughout history to focus in on her life. As we're studying the Scriptures, what can we learn from Esther's character, faith in God, and examples? Or, what can we learn from other characters in this story?

**LIFE APPLICATION** -

What can you apply to your life from these chapters?

**THE BIBLE  
IS THE  
STORY OF  
GOD**

The Bible is a story about God, His love, His redemptive purposes for humankind, and how He reveals Himself to His creation. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is telling us about the reign and rule of God.

**PERSONAL PRAYER-**

Dear God,

I thank You for the example of Esther, that You have an eternal purpose for my life, and a holy work that You call me to do. And when I obey You, it makes a difference in my life and in the life of others. Help me to step into the purposes and plans that You have for me with courage and faith. I humbly thank You for inviting me into Your story and using me to impact others. I thank You for being a God that turns the tables on the enemy. God, I confess that I need You to turn the tables in my favor in (name a specific situation) \_\_\_\_\_ in my life. I know that You are all powerful and I humbly ask You to do it! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I PRAYED THIS PRAYER ON \_\_\_\_\_.

# PROVIDENCE

{God's Unseen Hand directing and guiding all human history.}

In what ways do you see God's Hand of PROVIDENCE in these chapters?



**EXTRA NOTES:**

