

Such a Time as This

For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

– Esther 4:14 –

The historical trajectory of what transpires in the Book of Esther pivots in large part upon the above verse. The extraordinary series of events that had catapulted young Hadassah into Ahasuerus's immediate sphere of interest and subsequently transitioned her identity from that of a mere common Jewish maiden into that of Esther the Queen was as inexplicable as it was breath-taking. It must have been unsettling for Esther, at least in those first days and weeks, to have to learn how to assume the duties and obligations of royalty within a Gentile dominion. But human nature being what it is, it is not unreasonable to assume that as time went on, the queen became at least somewhat accustomed to and comfortable with her new-found position.

Perhaps just as she was settling into the advantages as well as the prerogatives of her authority, an unseen Hand was about to disrupt her plans and present her with a critical choice to make. When word came that cousin Mordecai was mourning in sackcloth and ashes in the midst of the city due to some unknown issue, it began a chain-reaction of events that led Esther to a decision-point that we can be sure she had not anticipated when she awakened that morning. For under her very nose, within the sphere of her husband's closest allies, an age-old enemy of the people of God (a descendent of Agag) was executing a well-orchestrated, meticulously crafted scheme to secure for himself a vice-grip on exclusive power and annihilate the Jewish people with it. Esther's decision was courageous. She solicited fasting and prayer, and boldly proclaimed "I will go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish." (Esther 4:16)

Events can change so rapidly in our lives, dear friends. We can awaken one day to find long festering cancers have metastasized, or our pleasant circumstances have been disrupted by forces completely outside of our control, or the security of all that we have known has changed overnight. As I pen these words, mandates are coming forth daily from federal and local authorities (due to the COVID 19 pandemic) that have no written law as their foundation, creating societal upheaval and setting dangerous precedents for the veracity of the civil liberties that we have known as citizens of the United States for generations. Tomorrow no longer seems as certain or secure as it once did.

Whether it is a personal trial or a national challenge, we will frequently find ourselves at the cross-roads of decision. Will we fret, or fast? Will we hide, or "go"? Will we love our lives unto the death, or boldly hazard our lives with the knowledge that God has the outcome in His omnipotent hands?

Our God is in the business of turning common people into kings and queens and then using them for His ends. We can choose to ignore the problem before us, or we can courageously use our sphere of influence to meet it head on with the knowledge that we are come to the Kingdom for such a time as this. Brethren, our Master makes no mistakes. We are precisely where He wants us at this moment in time, and we possess right now the authority to change the course of history with our words, our actions, our love, and our lives. May we boldly choose to be His vessels of enlargement and deliverance!