



Household devotions

Esther... such a time as this

by Bernard Gabbott

Memory verse:

"If you keep silent at this time,
liberation and deliverance will come to the Jewish people
from another place,
but you and your father's house will be destroyed.
Who knows, perhaps you have come to the kingdom for such
a time as this."

Esther 4:14

Week 1: Esther 1-2

Day 1

- Read Esther 1:1-9.
- Where and when are we?
- What is the scene?

Day 2

- Read Esther 1:10-22.
- What has happened to the king?
- What is the resolution?
- What is the picture we have of the ruler, and empire, of the Persians and the Medes?

Day 3

- Read Esther 2:1-7.
- What is the problem, and what is the resolution?
- Who do we meet, and what do we learn about them?

Day 4

- Read Esther 2:8-20.
- What happens to Esther?
- How are Mordecai and Esther contrasted with Xerxes and Vashti?

Day 5

- Read Esther 2:21-23.
- What do we learn about Mordecai?

Week 2: Esther 3-5**Day 1**

- Read Esther 3:1-6.
- Who do we meet?
- What tension is established?
- Why is this important?

Day 2

- Read Esther 3:7-15.
- How does Haman 'solve' his 'problem'?
- What is striking about the image in verse 15?

Day 3

- Read Esther 4:1-10.
- How does Mordecai respond?
- What does Mordecai do?

Day 4

- Read Esther 4:10-17.
- What problem does Esther face?
- What is Mordecai's challenge?
- How does Esther respond?

Day 5

- Read Esther 5:1-14.
- What does Esther do?
- How does this start to bring matters to a head?

Week 3: Esther 6-8**Day 1**

- Read Esther 6:1-3.
- What does Xerxes learn?
- Why is this important?

Day 2

- Read Esther 6:4-14.
- What happens to Haman, and Mordecai?
- How does this reverse the situation, on a personal level?

Day 3

- Read Esther 7:1-10.
- How is the plight of God's people resolved, on a personal level?

Day 4

- Read Esther 8:1-8.
- How is the plight of God's people resolved, on an empire-wide level?

Day 5

- Read Esther 8:9-17.
- How does Mordecai use the authority invested in him?
- How do verses 15-17 compare to 3:15?

Week 4: Esther 9-10**Day 1**

- Read Esther 9:1-15.
- What happens to 'the Jews'?

Day 2

- Read Esther 9:16-22.
- How are these events treated?

Day 3

- Read Esther 9:23-32.
- What emerges out of these days?
- Why?

Day 4

- Read Esther 10:1-3.
- What happens to Mordecai?

Day 5

- Looking back over the book of Esther:
 - (i) what have you learned about God?
 - (ii) what have you learned about God's people?
 - (iii) what have you learned about salvation?