

ESTHER — WHEN GOD SEEMS ABSENT
Sermon Outline — Esther 1
Sermon Series: Esther — For Such A Time As This
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Popular Opinions As To Why God Is Never Mentioned In The Book of Esther

1. The Book of Esther is too _____ for God to be mentioned in it.
 - Some Christian scholars argue that since Esther is bankrupt of _____, Mordecai is all about _____, then God chose to be _____ in this book.
2. The Book of Esther is a book of _____.
3. The Book of Esther is a book of _____.
4. The Book of Esther is a book is a book about _____ (Pastor Kelly's belief).
 - Providence" comes from the Latin, "providentia." "Pro" means "before" or "ahead of time"; "videntia" is from "voider," meaning "to see," from which we get our English word "video." Put these two words together and they mean " _____," which is what God Almighty does.
 - † *Hebrews 13:8*, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (NLT).
 - † *James 1:17*, "Every good action and every perfect gift is from God. These good gifts come down from the Creator of the sun, moon, and stars, who does not change like their shifting shadows" (NCV)

What Is Providence?

1. Providence means that God lovingly guides all of history for His good purposes and intentions. Providence refers to the way God _____ of our lives, orchestrating events to accomplish His good plan.
 - † *Romans 8:28*, "We know that God causes everything to work together[a] for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them" (NLT).
2. What appears to be normal human events (from our limited viewpoint) are actually _____ products of _____. What appear to be amazing _____ are not at all, but products of _____.
 - † *Psalms 135:6*, "The Lord does whatever pleases Him throughout all heaven and earth, and on the seas and in their depths" (NLT).
 - † *Daniel 4:34b-35*, "His dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation. ³⁵All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand or say to Him: "What have You done?" (NIV).
 - † *Romans 9:19-21*, "Well then, one might ask, "If God is in complete control, how could He blame us? For who can resist whatever He wants done?" ²⁰But who do you think you are to second-guess God? How could a human being molded out of clay say to the One who molded him, "Why in the world did You make me this way?" ²¹Or are you denying the right of the potter to make out of clay whatever He wants? Doesn't the potter have the right to make from the same lump of clay an elegant vase or an ordinary pot?" (TPT).
3. When God's people _____ God, He always _____ His people.
 - † *Esther 4:14*, "If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?" (NLT).
 - † *Genesis 12:1-3*, "The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you" (NLT).
 - † *Genesis 17:1*, "I will confirm My covenant with you and your descendants after you, from generation to generation. This is the everlasting covenant: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you" (NLT).

† Jeremiah 31:35-37, "It is the Lord who provides the sun to light the day and the moon and stars to light the night, and who stirs the sea into roaring waves. His name is the Lord of Heaven's Armies, and this is what He says: ³⁶"I am as likely to reject My people Israel as I am to abolish the laws of nature!" ³⁷This is what the Lord says: "Just as the heavens cannot be measured and the foundations of the earth cannot be explored, so I will not consider casting them away for the evil they have done. I, the Lord, have spoken!" (NLT).

- One message we get from the Book of Esther is this: when God seems invisible and vacant, He is _____ and _____.
- Though God seems _____ in the Book of Esther, He is not _____. God's _____, God's _____, God's _____, God's _____ and God's _____ are all in the Book of Esther.

Explanations About Esther 1

1. In Esther 1:1, depending on your translation, you will have name of the Persian King as King Xerxes or Ahasuerus. Xerxes is the king's Persian name. Ahasuerus is the king's royal title. For example, the term "Pharaoh" is not the name of a king of Egypt, but his title — which means "king, ruler."
2. The Persian Empire was some 3,000 miles in width and 1,500 miles in length with 127 provinces.
3. In Esther 1:2, depending on your translation, the word translated as "capital" or "fortress" refers to both a palace and gardens. Susa, the capital or palace grounds were elevated 120 feet above anything else. Those 9-10 stories were to show to show that the king was exalted and to guard his life from attack.
4. King Xerxes had a personal bodyguard including 2,000 select horsemen, 2,000 lancers, and 10,000 infantry. His total army was around 2.6 million men. When he went to war, he took half of these (1.3 million soldiers with him) and left the other 1.3 million to guard the homeland. Historians tell us King Xerxes had over 700 tones of gold and silver paid to him annually by other countries. The citadel and palace Xerxes built would eventually be where the prophet Nehemiah would serve King Artaxerxes a few years later and where the prophet Daniel would be buried.
5. After taking 2 years to subdue both Egypt and Babylon as enemies, King Xerxes threw a 180 day (6 month) celebration that led to both drunkenness and promiscuity.
6. In Esther 1:5-8, the word "courtyard" or "court of the garden" or "garden" is the Persian word "paridaida," which the Greeks pronounced as "paradeisos." This is the same word borrowed by the English to give us the word _____.
7. In Esther 1:10-12, to end his 180 day celebration, King Xerxes did not choose fireworks, but _____ and _____.

What Does God To Say To Us From All of This?

1. When God seems _____, He is ever _____ in our lives.
 - † Matthew 28:20, Jesus said, "I am with you always [remaining with you perpetually—regardless of circumstance, and on every occasion], even to the end of this world" (AMP).
2. When God seems _____, He is still _____ for you.
 - † Job 42:2, Jesus said, "I am with you always [remaining with you perpetually—regardless of circumstance, and on every occasion], even to the end of this world" (AMP).
 - † John 10:29, Jesus said, "My Father has given them to Me, and He is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand" (NLT).
3. When God seems to have _____ to you, He is still _____ in you.
 - † Hebrews 13:5, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you" (NLT).
 - † John 15:4a, "Abide in Me, and I will abide in you" (ISV).
 - † 1 John 3:24, "Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God abides in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Holy Spirit whom He has given us" (ESVR).
4. When life is _____, keep God as the _____ in your life.
 - † Exodus 20:3, "You must not have any other god but Me" (NLT).
 - † Matthew 6:33, Jesus said, "Put God and God's purpose first in your life above everything else" (PAR).
5. The Book of Esther was not given to us to enamor us with _____; it was given to enamor us with our _____.