Riverside Community Church

Influencer
Esther
Pastor Taylor Klassen
November 1st, 2026

Esther 3:7 (NLT) – So in the month of April, during the twelfth year of King Xerxes' reign, lots were cast in Haman's presence (the lots were called *purim*) to determine the best day and month to take action. And the day selected was March 7, nearly a year later.

Esther 4:17 (NLT) - **17** So Mordecai went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

God's providence is assured; your participation is desired

Esther 7:1-8 (NLT) - So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet. 2 On this second occasion, while they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "Tell me what you want, Queen Esther. What is your request? I will give it to you, even if it is half the kingdom!"

3 Queen Esther replied, "If I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request, I ask that my life and the lives of my people will be spared. 4 For my people and I have been sold to those who would kill, slaughter, and annihilate us. If we had merely been sold as slaves, I could remain quiet, for that would be too trivial a matter to warrant disturbing the king."

5 "Who would do such a thing?" King Xerxes demanded. "Who would be so presumptuous as to touch you?"

6 Esther replied, "This wicked Haman is our adversary and our enemy." Haman grew pale with fright before the king and queen. 7 Then the king jumped to his feet in a rage and went out into the palace garden.

Haman, however, stayed behind to plead for his life with Queen Esther, for he knew that the king intended to kill him. 8 In despair he fell on the couch where Queen Esther was reclining, just as the king was returning from the palace garden.

The king exclaimed, "Will he even assault the queen right here in the palace, before my very eyes?" And as soon as the king spoke, his attendants covered Haman's face, signaling his doom.

Esther 9:20-28 (NLT) - **20** Mordecai recorded these events and sent letters to the Jews near and far, throughout all the provinces of King Xerxes, **21** calling on them to celebrate an annual festival on these two days. **22** He told them to celebrate these days with feasting and gladness and by giving gifts of food to each other and presents to the poor. This would commemorate a time when the Jews gained relief from their enemies, when their sorrow was turned into gladness and their mourning into joy.

23 So the Jews accepted Mordecai's proposal and adopted this annual custom. **24** Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews, had plotted to crush and destroy them on the date determined by casting lots (the lots were called *purim*). **25** But when Esther came before the king, he issued a decree causing Haman's evil plot to backfire, and Haman and his sons were impaled on a sharpened pole. **26** That is why this celebration is called Purim, because it is the ancient word for casting lots.

So because of Mordecai's letter and because of what they had experienced, **27** the Jews throughout the realm agreed to inaugurate this tradition and to pass it on to their descendants and to all who became Jews. They declared they would never fail to celebrate these two prescribed days at the appointed time each year. **28** These days would be remembered and kept from generation to generation and celebrated by every family throughout the provinces and cities of the empire. This Festival of Purim would never cease to be celebrated among the Jews, nor would the memory of what happened ever die out among their descendants.

Study Guide:

This last week, we explored the complex story of Queen Esther. The book itself is unique amongst all in the Bible since God is never outright mentioned. Likewise, the only "religious" act would be when all of the Jews take time to fast while Esther waits to act. Yet, the absence of the voice of God does not mean He is not present all throughout the story of Esther. The Jews were deep into their exile and captivity; many were likely questioning if they were still God's people. Then, when they are presented with a doomed situation with no king, prophet, or judge standing up for them, STILL God's hand is seen through the actions of Mordecai and Esther.

Mordecai speaks an important line to Esther,

"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?" (Esther 4:14, NLT)

This principle applies very similarly in our own lives. When we see trouble and suffering around us, we recognize the need for God to act. In your last week, where have you seen a situation that could use God's love, care, or justice?

Mordecai's words then ring true in our own situations. We ought to consider that God may have placed us in such a situation or allowed us to see another person's hurt so that we could act as an extension of God's love.

Take some time to pray and ask God where He has placed you to care for another**.**