

Andy & Jean are in Greece and Turkey on a study tour that follows the footsteps of Paul during his church planting ministry found in the book of Acts of the Apostles. Show pics.

“For Such a Time as This”

May 4, 2025

The book of Esther: no mention of God, prayer, the Law, the Levitical sacrifices, worship, miracles. Yet God is controlling everything for His purpose all throughout this book. Are we comfortable with God flying undercover? God is!

God’s Providence (Jerry Bridges): **His constant care for and His absolute rule over all His creation, for His own glory and the good of His people.**

Esther 1: 483 B.C. King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) Medo/Persian empire/huge, fragile ego

Esther 2: 478 B.C. 4 years later; trouble with Greece/ personal life. Mordecai and his niece Esther; new queen in place; plot uncovered and recorded.

Esther 3: 471 B.C. 7 years later; An influencer arrives: Haman joins narrative. Haman vs. Mordecai/Haman vs. the Jews (15 million/100+ years). Edict to destroy/ most bewildered.

Chapter 4:

Vs. 1-4 Public spectacle; Mordecai purpose to connect with Esther.

Vs. 4-5 Wrong response leads to right inquiry. Hathak arrives.

Vs. 6-8 Mordecai’s presentation and plea.

Vs. 9-11 Esther’s well-founded fear. What Mordecai knew and what he didn’t know.

Vs. 12-14 Mordecai’s response – four truths.

- 1) Your position won’t protect you**
- 2) Her inaction wouldn’t hinder God’s plan**
- 3) Her position wasn’t by accident/chance/good fortune**
- 4) God’s timing is always perfect**

Vs. 15-17 Esther demonstration of her faith/trust/submission in God. Fast and pray!

Takeaways: what do we learn?

- 1) Your _____ won’t protect you** from the most important life and death issue that every human being faces. **Your faith/trust in Jesus will!**
Bank account, health, children, friends, church, good deeds, good luck

Jeremiah 9.23-24

23 This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD.

2) Are you a participant or spectator in God's plan?

Your purpose in life (value); serving God and others; grow in faith; opportunities to tell others; pray; don't complain but encourage; student of Scripture; sometimes that's hard (Joseph, Caleb, Daniel, Hebrew's 11 men and women, Jesus)

Ephesians 2.8-10

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

James 4.17

17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

3) Are willing and able to affirm the providence of God? That he knows right where you are today, what challenges you face, what limitations you have, and what plans he has for you for today, tomorrow, and the rest of the days he has planned for you?

Acts 17.24-28

24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Table of the Lord

Romans 5.6-8

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.