James #6

You have attained maturity for such a time as this.

Go back into our study in the OT – Esther chapter four RF.

Get your page turning fingers ready - we will bounce through some chapters today.

What we have seen so far is that Esther is now the young Queen and she is in great favor with the King of Persia.

Her older cousin Mordecai who worked in the kingdom, was now in direct opposition to a wicked political leader, who had the power of the king behind him.

Haman the Amalekite is now on a blood thirsty quest to wipe out all of Israel.

Est 4:1 When Mordecai learned of everything that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city and wailed loudly and bitterly.

This was a tradition for the ancient Jews which mostly likely stemmed from Genesis 37.

After Joesph was thrown in the pit by his brothers, Reuben returned to the pit and his younger brother Joesph was missing, he grieved what he thought was the death of Joesph and what he had done.

It is called KRIAH- (KAW-RAH) and then they also added in the tossing of ashes upon themselves to symbolize a death experience, or something completely burned down or lost forever.

Not only seen in Genesis 37 but also, in the book of Job and Jonah, among several other OT scriptures.

/The tearing of clothing, the wearing of a sackcloth and ashes all point to a devasting grief and also a recognition of repentance as well. It is a visible form of not only grief, but deep regret or repentance. It is symbolic for a position of extreme grief and also humility. Mordecai knew the evil of Haman and what was going to happen to Israel. It was grief, yet also a form of repentance asking God for mercy.\

Remember there is both cursing and blessing by association. Many good Israelites suffered during periods of captivity because the majority had followed the gods under the BAAL system.

It is the equivalent of one bad parent who brings misery into the whole family.

Or one good parent who has great integrity and success, so they bless the whole family.

[Est 4:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/4/2/s_430002) And he came as far as the king’s gate, for no one was to enter the king’s gate clothed in sackcloth.

[Est 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/4/3/s_430003) In each and every province where the command and decree of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and mourning rites; and many had sackcloth and ashes spread out as a bed.

This was going on for several weeks as word spread and the legal decree was posted in towns and cities under Persian dominance.

[/Est 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/4/4/s_430004) Then Esther’s attendants and her eunuchs came and informed her, and **the queen was seized by great fear**. And she sent garments to clothe Mordecai so that he would remove his sackcloth from him, but he did not accept *them.*

System testing can often feel overwhelming. Because the Bel realizes they are in a system, that has them not only trapped but compromises who they are.\

This is why your relationship with GOD has to be a priority.

We are all living through a spiritual warfare that will place pressure upon our temporal walk.

That kind of pressure will either make you or break you.

/Even though Esther is placed in a very difficult system with the potential for life and death consequences, she will rise to the challenge. This young woman is rocked back by the current situation, yet she did not allow her emotions and negativity to overwhelm her. Mordecai will become a guiding light to keep her on a path of confidence in the plan of God. Never underestimate your value to other Christians. Your mere presence or doctrinal words may be the strength they need to stand firm.\

None of us are an island unto ourself.

[Est 4:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/4/5/s_430005) Then Esther summoned Hathach from the king’s eunuchs, whom the king had appointed to attend her, and ordered him *to go* to Mordecai to learn what this *mourning was* and why it *was happening.*

Now Queen Esther is fully read into the current situation and she realizes she is in a predicament. She now knows this is a serious threat for the nation of Israel.

The king had already got rid of one Queen for not following his exact orders. Now Mordecai wants Esther to disturb the king in his meetings within the inner court of the throne room, which would be a death sentence for her if she did so without authorization.

Esther is being very cautious because this may lead to her death if it is not handled properly.

Jump down a few verses.

Est 4:13 Then Mordecai told *them* to reply to Esther, “Do not imagine that you in the king’s palace can escape any more than all the *other* Jews.

Running from adversity and tests is never the answer.

/[Est 4:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/4/14/s_430014) “For if you keep silent at this time, **liberation and rescue will arise for the Jews from another place**, and you and your father’s house will perish. And **who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?**”

Mordecai is resting on the power and plan of GOD, in doing so he helps his young cousin to find her strength.\

God’s perfect timing and HIS protection are seen within this story.

/The testing and adversity that come into our life are not from an angry GOD. For the Christian, it is either an opportunity for growth and blessing, or a loving FATHER trying to bring a lost child back into HIS arms. God does not align with human plans and human viewpoint. Therefore, the Christian needs to stand firm no matter what appears to be confronting them. Apply HIS word and HIS nature and wait on HIS outcome.\

Est 4:15 Then Esther told *them* to reply to Mordecai,

/[Est 4:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/4/16/s_430016) “Go, gather all the Jews who are found in Susa, and **fast for me**; do not eat or drink **for three days**, night or day. I and my attendants also will fast in the same way. And then I will go in to the king, which is not in accordance with the law; and **if I perish, I perish**.”

Fasting was established to remove any and all distractions and focus on praying. This is the equivalent for the CA Bel, who rebounds and begins to apply faith-rest to adversity.\

Coming together in unity and prayer is a powerful weapon in difficult times.

Notice three days is a good rule of thumb. Laser focus on your situation in prayer and then step out in faith!

SHU-SHAN is in and around modern-day Iraq about 150 miles east of the Tigris River.

You find it mentioned many times in scripture.

What unfolds next is Esther finding favor with the King – he genuinely loved his young queen. God worked in her favor.

/Est 5:1 Now it came **about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner courtyard**of the king’s palace in front of the king’s rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace.

This was a bold move yet showed great wisdom. She did not barge in or force anything – Esther was trusting GOD would show her what to do next.\

[Est 5:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/5/2/s_431002) When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the courtyard, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which *was* in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the top of the scepter.

This young Queen, probably not much older than 19-20 years old, displayed spiritual maturity in many ways throughout this whole period of her life.

/Esther did not request immediate retribution against Haman. She waited on the timing of GOD. Esther set up a royal banquet to honor the king and also invited Haman, which tickled his pride even further. Haman began to set up the gallows to hang Mordecai and advance his plans to destroy all the Jews. God is always the one who sets the exact timing and the stage for judgment.\

Jump over to chapter six RF.

Haman is very well pleased with his devious plan. He is feeling secure in his position of power and yet God is at work behind the scenes.

/Est 6:1 During that night **the king could not sleep,** so he gave an order to bring the book of records, the chronicles, and they were read before the king.

God has a way of intervening on behalf of the Bel who is standing firm in HIS word, HE does so in methods and subtly ways we may never truly understand.\

Many stories such as the book of Esther - show us how often GOD uses HIS own unique timing. Placing certain people or circumstances in the exact position or timing, that work in the Bel’s favor.

 REPEAT

[Est 6:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/6/2/s_432002) And it was found written what Mordecai had reported about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s eunuchs who were doorkeepers, that they had sought to attack King Ahasuerus.

(as seen in Est 2:22)

/[Est 6:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/6/3/s_432003) Then the king said, “**What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this**?” And the king’s servants who attended him said, “Nothing has been done for him.”

In one day, God can flip an adversity or test in the favor of a positive Bel, usually with people and circumstances we would never dream of! \

Look at how GOD took the faithful man of God Mordecai, brings him into honor and justice while using the arrogance of Haman to show the enemies of GOD what always happens to them in the end.

Jump down a few verses RF.

Haman thinks he will be elevated even higher and that he will be the man of honor at the banquet.

 /Est 6:11 So **Haman took the robe and the horse, and dressed Mordecai**, and led him *on horseback* through the city square, and proclaimed before him, “So it shall be done **for the man whom the king desires to honor**.”

God will promote you in HIS timing. God will protect the Christian who remains in HIS plan and HE will bring justice in a fashion that will be undisputable.\

[Est 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/6/12/s_432012) Then Mordecai returned to the king’s gate, while Haman hurried home, mourning, with *his* head covered.

Look at chapter seven in closing RF.

Now during the banquet, Esther the Queen, announces the intentions of Haman’s bounty against HER PEOPLE, the Jews.

Remember in God’s perfect timing - Esther had withheld her heritage until the right moment.

Est 7:5 Then King Ahasuerus asked Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who would presume to do such *a thing?*”

[Est 7:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/7/6/s_433006) And Esther said, “A foe and an enemy is this wicked Haman!” Then Haman became terrified before the king and queen.

[Est 7:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/7/7/s_433007) The king then got up in his anger from drinking wine *and went* into the palace garden; but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that harm had been determined against him by the king.

/During a banquet it was common place for the king to enjoy plenty of wine. Notice the perfect timing of GOD working in favor of Mordecai and Esther. There are no coincidences in the plan of God.

Psa 31;15 My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me.\

Any adversity and test will turn into a blessing for the Bels who stays the course and applies BD and stands in a firm faith.

/[Est 7:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/7/8/s_433008) Now **when the king returned** from the palace garden into the place where they had been drinking wine, **Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was.** Then the king said, “Will he even assault the queen with me in the house?” As the word went out of the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face.

God will use the corruption of the cosmic system and the wicked ways of the unrighteous to vindicate a positive Bel.\

Never assume you know the outcome of any adversity or test.

Just relax and know GOD will give you a victory if you just simply walk in HIS plan.

[Est 7:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/est/7/9/s_433009) Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who *stood* before the king, said, “Indeed, behold, the wooden *gallows* standing at Haman’s house fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai who spoke good in behalf of the king!” And the king said, “Hang him on it.”

Every attack or adversity can be turned into an opportunity for growth and blessings for the positive Bel.

/Est 7:10 So **they hanged Haman** on the wooden *gallows* **which he had prepared for Mordecai,** and the king’s anger subsided.

Psa 7:15 **He has dug a pit** and hollowed it out, And **has fallen into the hole which he made**. 16 His harm will return on his own head, And **his violence will descend on the top of his own head.** \

Stay the course of firm faith and applying BD during any test or adversity.

/Psa 9:16 The LORD has made Himself known; He has executed judgment. A wicked one is ensnared in the work of his own hands.

Psa 10:2 In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the needy; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.\

There will always be enemies in the devil’s world… there will always be adversity or a test – trust in God, stay the course.

/Gen 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to keep many people alive.

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to HIS purpose.\