

Series: Living in Exile; Sermon: **For Such a Time as This**
delivered by **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on February 7, 2021

Bible text explored: Esther 4:12-17 (context, chapters 3–4)

¹²And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. ¹³Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” ¹⁵Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, ¹⁶“Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.” ¹⁷Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What kind of blood feud (*Esther 3*) might have caused Mordecai to refuse to bow down to Haman, the most powerful official in the kingdom?*

*Five times in the book of Esther, Haman is identified as an Agagite, indicating that he was an Amalekite descended from Agag. Agag was the monarch King Saul disobediently spared from the destruction God decreed through Samuel (*1 Samuel 15:5; 32-33*). See what the Lord told Moses (*Exodus 17:14-15*) after the Israelites defeated the Amalekites.

How (*Esther 4:1-9*) did Esther learn about the plot to annihilate all Jews in the Persian kingdom?

What did Mordecai plead with Esther to do?

2. Was Esther’s initial response (*Esther 4:10–11*), explaining her inability to comply, reasonable?
3. Mordecai’s reply to Esther (*verses 12-14, above*) included a phrase about “such a time as this” that has become well known. What makes how the word *time* is understood crucial?

The precise Greeks distinguished between two types of time: *chronos*, a sequential time; and *kairos*, an opportune season for action. What kind of time had “Esther A’s” response dealt with?

To what kind of time did Mordecai’s response appeal?

4. How did the risk of “Esther B’s” response (*verses 15-16*) rise to the *chronos* level?

Was the risk Esther decided to take real? (Pastor Moody cited *The Hiding Place*, Corrie ten Boom’s account of her family’s sheltering of Jews during the Nazi occupation that led to her sister’s death in prison camp.)

5. How (*Matthew 26:39*) did Jesus deal in a *chronos* sense with the prospect of his crucifixion?

What (John 12:23) was his *kairos* resolve?

6. How has our culture ominously shifted to everyone redefining his or her own identity?*

*See Charles Taylor’s *A Secular Age*, and Carl R. Trueman’s *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*.

7. How has “big tech’s” social media created an echo chamber that amplifies our preferences and disregards truth?
*See the February __ *New York Times* article by Harvard University alumna emeritus _____.
8. What result that Jesus predicted (*Matthew 13:22*) has reached crisis proportions in our time?
9. Why did Pastor Josh conclude that we urgently need an “army of Esther B’s” to proclaim the gospel to our generation?
10. Who could you invite to participate in the apologetic “Three Common Objections to Christianity” series Pastor Josh is hosting starting this week?