

# **Esther 4**

## **Esther 4.1-3**

**V 1** – **Mordecai's reaction to the decree of King Ahasuerus?** Sackcloth and ashes/tore his clothing

-These were traditional Jewish signs of great sorrow (as with David before the death of his baby boy)

**V 2** – Mordecai went to the king's gate

**V 3** – **Reaction of the Jews in general?** Same as with Mordecai

## **Esther 4.4-8**

**V 4** – **Did Esther know about the king's edict?** No

-She must have thought that something strange was taking place – maybe Mordecai was sick or in pain or in poverty

**V 5** – **What did Esther do next?** Sent Hathach to see Mordecai and find out what the problem was

**V 6-7** – Hathach went to see Mordecai – Mordecai told him what the problem was

**V 8** – **Mordecai's plan?** To get Esther to change the king's mind and rescind the edict

## **Esther 4.9-14**

**V 9-12** - **What was Esther's reply?** No-one can approach the king unless he extends the scepter (otherwise death) – and the king had not sent for Esther for 30 days (in other words, the king was in a very bad mood)

**V 13-14** – This is the key passage for the entire book

### **Points Mordecai made:**

1. You will not escape destruction against the Jews

-**Note:** There are congregations that refuse to take a stand against certain false doctrines and false teachers, but they will not escape destruction

-Satan is constantly trying to destroy the people of God – we cannot remain neutral!

-To remain neutral is to be destroyed

-**How would Esther be brought into the destruction?** Someone would find out that she was a Jew

2. If you do not help at this time, God will bring help from someone else

-In other words, God will protect his people, one way or another

3. You may have been made queen for just this moment –

-We can never be certain about the providence of God

-*Philemon 15 – Perhaps....*

-**Mordecai**: God made you queen for this exact moment in world history

-God arranges things for us – to put us in key positions for certain moments in history

## **Esther 4.15-17**

-**What indicates here that Esther had grown at lot as a child of God?**

1. Fasting – that showed some leadership in getting others to fast with her

2. She had the courage to approach the king

-*"Going for broke"* – putting all her eggs in one basket

Esther: *"If I perish, I perish."* – What a great statement

-**Other similar occasions in the Bible?** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace (*Daniel 3*)

Revised 2012-09-15