

**Context**

- 1] Esther, a secret Jew (2:10) had been made queen or Persian. (2:17)
- 2] She remained obedient to her step-father. (2:20)
- 3] She & her step-father were loyal to the King, saving his life (2:21)
- 4] Mordecai wouldn't bow to Haman, 2<sup>nd</sup> to the King – sworn enemy of Jews (3:2)
- 5] Haman hatched a plot to kill all Jews in empire in 11 months time. (3:5-15)

**KV** For if you remain silent at this time, relief & deliverance will arise from another place (14)

**MP** God is committed to fulfil His promise and save His people through a willing servant

**Intro**

- 1] 'He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself' (Lk 24:27)
- 2] Bible Jesus autobiography - 1) shows us of God **THEN** 2) what 1 should do - show of Jesus?
- 3] Garden of Gethsemane – spirit willing / body weak – Mordecai / Esther?

**Mordecai mourns (1-3)**

- 1] 'All that had been done' (1a)

*Cf dispatches 1st month, kill all Jews on 12th month – whole empire (3:12-14)*

- 2] Tore clothes – sack cloth and ashes. (1b)

*nb Sack cloth and ashes (Daniel 9:13; Matt. 11:21)*

*Associated with prayer (Ez 8:23; Neh 1:4; Jer 14:12)*

*Godly repentance (Josh 7:6; 2 Kings 19:1)*

*Nb back to the King's gate (4:17; 5:9)*

*\*Make public the oppression of God's people\**

- 3] No one in sack cloth enter the king's presence (2)

*Cf No mourning in God's presence (Rev 21:4)*

- 4] All provinces, Jews sack clothes etc (3)

*\* When the chips are down, seek God in prayer. \**

**Esther enquires (4-5)**

- 1] Esther heard – great distress. (v unusual word) (4a)

*Nb one part suffers every part suffers (1 Cor 12:26a)*

- 2] Remedy? – send clothes (4b)

*\*'cosmetic answer? Family work etc – drill down for reality?'\**

- 3] Hatach king's eunuch to investigate M (5)

*Cf vs 8 plead with King for her people – (knew she was a Jewess?)*

**Mordecai 'commands' (6-8)**

- 1] M in the open square

- 2] M told H all that had happened to him+

a) the 10000 talents

b) the text of the edict

\*Be honest with genuine enquiries within the body of Christ\*

\* People should be fully aware of the predicament of God's people\*

Cf FINE!

3] command to go to the King and

a) beg for mercy - lit 'seek that he should stoop'

\*Our request for salvation is that God should stoop / be merciful\*

b) plead for her people

*ie the Jews – make your Jewishness known. 5,8 Must now be known that she was a Jew (cf 2:10,20)*

*cf Jesus intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25)*

### **Esther 'shys' (9-11)**

1] All King's official in provinces for any man (11).

*Ie Universally known*

2] To approach the King in inner court -death (11)

*cf No man shall see God and live (Ex 33:20)*

\*God's presence is Holy – we cannot approach Him.\*

3] The only exception is the golden sceptre

*Cf the holy of holies (once a year Lev 16:34)*

\*The gold sceptre is extended to us in Jesus\*

4] Thirty days have passed (11c)

*Cf 30 days – mourning Aaron and Moses (Numbers 20:29; Deut. 34:8)*

*- no praying (Daniel 6:7)*

### **Mordecai warns (12-14)**

1] You are implicated (13)

*Cf Jesus baptism (Matt 3:13)*

2] The dilemma (14a)

*Cf in Garden of Gethsemane (Lk 22:40-44)*

\* The people of God cannot 'sit on the fence' with regard to the Devil\*

\* Deliverance for God's people comes in God time and God's way\*

\*He is faithful to his covenant – he will not let his people perish.\*

3] The calling (14b)

\*Jesus chose to give himself – for us\*

\*As a child of the king, he has work for you to do - ask. Chose to do it\*

### **Esther resolves (15,16)**

1] 3 days fast for me (16a)

*Cf Three days and nights (Jonah 1:17; Matt 12:40)*

\*Three days - God's time, before deliverance\*

2] I will go – 'against the Law' (16b)

*Cf it is finished (John 19:30)*

*Dilemma for a saviour (Luke 22:42)*

*\*All God's people are involved in the Saviour's approach to the King\**

3] If I perish, I perish

*Cf (Gen 43:14; Dan.3:17)*

*Into your hands I commit myself (Luke 23:46)*

*Free to lay down life (John 10:18)*

*\* Better to 'perish' with God than to try and live without Him\**

### **Mordecai responds (17)**

1] Went away

*Nb took off sack cloth and ashes – back to city gate (4:19)*

2] Carried out all instructions

*\*Obey ALL the Lord's instructions!\**

### **Conclusion**

1] Don't wait - seek God for salvation today.

2] Trust in Jesus who intercede with The Father for us.