

# TIME

## QUEEN ESTHER

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“And who knows whether you  
have not come to the kingdom  
for such a time as this?”  
Esther 4:14”



# "TIME" – Fast 2023

## Schedule

Date	Day #	Topic	Verses
<b>Week 1</b>			
1/15	<b>1</b>	Absorb the Word	Chapters 1-5
1/16	<b>2</b>	Absorb the Word	Chapters 6-10
1/17	<b>3</b>	God knows you by name	1:10-14
1/18	<b>4</b>	What you do affects others	1:15-18
1/19	<b>5</b>	Preparing to go before the King	2:1-4; 5:1-2
1/20	<b>6</b>	Planning your time with God	2:12-13
1/21	<b>7</b>	Advice – good and bad	2:15; 5:14
<b>Week 2</b>			
1/22	<b>8</b>	Belief dictates action	3:1-4
1/23	<b>9</b>	The world's reaction to God	3:5-9; 5:9-11
1/24	<b>10</b>	The enemy's plan for destruction	3:12-15
1/25	<b>11</b>	Fasting – desperate before God	4:1-9
1/26	<b>12</b>	Such a Time – Why not you? – Why not now?	4:10-14
1/27	<b>13</b>	Doing what is right	4:15-17; 7:3; 9:13-15
1/28	<b>14</b>	The expectation of favor	5:4-8; 2:17-18; 8:3-6
<b>Week 3</b>			
1/29	<b>15</b>	Positioning yourself before God	5:1-2
1/30	<b>16</b>	The Word	6:1-2
1/31	<b>17</b>	Deceitful hearts	6:5-11; 7:9-10
2/1	<b>18</b>	Light exposes darkness	7:5-6
2/3	<b>19</b>	Defending yourself – knowing how to fight	8:11-14; 9:1-10, 16-17
2/4	<b>20</b>	Remember – Celebrate – Pass it on	9:20-28
2/5	<b>21</b>	Speak Peace	10:1-3
<b>Week 4</b>			
2/6		Miracle Sunday – Celebration Sunday	















1/21	7	Advice – good and bad	2:15; 5:14
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Congratulations! You have made it to day 7 out of the 21 days of fasting and prayer. I trust all is going well for you and that you are making progress in your spiritual journey. You have also most likely faced some of your fears, some of your doubts, and maybe even some discouragement brought by our enemy. But you have overcome and pressed on taking the next few steps on your spiritual journey. I want to take a moment and celebrate your accomplishment to this point. I would also take this time to encourage you to dig in a little deeper and press in a little more diligently than you already have. There is still much to be learned and much to be accomplished in the 14 days that follow.

We turn now to the lesson for today which once again follows closely after yesterday's lesson. In chapter #2 verse 15 it is now Esther's turn to go in before the king. I find something that she does very fascinating. It says that she requested only the jewelry but what was advised to her from the King's servant who is in charge of all of these women. Why would she do that? Don't most of us have an idea of what is pleasing to the king? The answer is the core of this lesson today and that is getting advice both good and bad. The servant that is closest to the king knows best what the king likes. So, it only stands to reason that Esther would go to him for advice in what would be pleasing to the king. In this case she took good advice and in the end of first 15 it was effective because she obtained favor in the sight of everyone who saw her.

Later in this story we find a piece of advice that is not so good. In chapter 5 in verse 14 Hayman is very upset about Mordecai. His wife and all his friends give him, what is going to be, the worst possible piece of advice, in a moment when he is very upset. To quote chapter 5 verse 14 they simply advise him to, "let a gallows be made." Terrible advice!

The lesson for us today is not about making an instrument of punishment or what jewelry you need to wear, but it is about listening to the right people, and seeking advice from the right people when you need it. It seems that in our world bad advice is everywhere. I have spoken with people who get their theology from Facebook or other social media, a very terrible idea. So, my thought for today is to stop and evaluate who you personally are listening to and also evaluate the advice that you are giving to others.

There are examples of this several times throughout scripture. A great example of bad advice can be found in the story of Job. His wives' advice is to "curse God and die." Not very good advice.

My encouragement for you today is simply, careful who you are listening to and be careful of what you say to others.

May God bless you today. May you sense the guidance of His Holy Spirit. My prayer for you is that your fasting will be effective, and you will take another step closer to His presence this day!

**Notes**






Again, today our lesson comes in the way of a warning of sorts. We find in chapter #3 versus 12 through 15 that Haman has managed to get the king to issue a decree which will destroy, kill, and annihilate all of the Jews. As a side note the end of verse #15 tells us that many in the city were perplexed or they simply didn't understand what this was all about.

The warning here is for every believer to truly understand the enemy. Our enemy makes promise this is that all sound good and will at times be profitable, at least for a while. The Bible tells us that the pleasure of sin will last for a while. But every time that pleasure comes to an end. We also are told that the enemy comes for only three purposes to steal, to kill, and to destroy.

I once heard a preacher preach an entire sermon about "poor satan," he seems to get blamed for everything. This minister went on to almost make it sound like he felt sorry for how Christians view satan. I could not believe what I was hearing. Today I boldly say that there is a real enemy, his name as we know him is Satan or Lucifer, and he really does wander about the world, he and his unholy angels, their sole intent is to destroy everything. He gets no sympathy from me, but we must be diligent and be aware that he is not just a passive bad guy, but he is a powerful adversary whose sole intent is the destruction of individuals and families and even the Church of Jesus Christ.

The encouragement for you today is that the God that you serve, who lives down inside of you, is greater than any of his schemes and devices. We as followers of the most high God do not have to dip our banner and acknowledge the enemy's power over us at all. We do however have to stand up and fight for our faith and our relationship with God. No doubt just halfway through our time of fasting and prayer you have been challenged and you have been tempted to slack off and maybe even quit in this quest to get closer to God and to hear His voice plainly. You may have even come up against attacks, which are challenges to your faith, and our challenges to your determination. I trust that you have met these challenges and have overcome. May I remind you that the way that believers overcome the attack of the enemy is by putting on the full armor of God and rely on the shed blood of Jesus Christ to sustain us, to keep us, to protect us, and be our standard of hope. The word of God has been given to you as an offensive weapon to defeat every single attack that comes against you. This is why it is so vitally important that you invest yourself in God's word.

Take a few moments today to solidify your plan of fighting back when you feel that you are under spiritual attack.

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Our passages today are really at the heart of why God has chosen the story of Esther for us to glean lessons from during this time of prayer and fasting. The verses you read today are some of my favorites in the entire book. To me it shows the courage of those who dare to follow after God. Let's take a look at what truth we can find in these passages today.

Starting in chapter 4 after the conversation that Esther has with Mordecai, we find the most quotable words in this entire book. Queen Esther says to her uncle Mordecai that she will go into the king even though it is against the law, and she says this quote, "if I perish, I perish!" I have also put together a couple of other passages from the book for us to consider with this topic of doing what is right. In chapter #7 in verse #3 Esther says to the king if she has found favor and if she has pleased him then may she give her petition to the king. Then once again in Chapter 9 beginning at verse 13 she again she says if she pleases the king then would he grant a decree from the king on behalf of her people the end result of that in verse #10 was that yes, the sons of Haman were hung on the gallows.

So, what does this speak to us for today? The answer is very short and very simple, that no matter what the circumstances are, **do what is right**. Sometimes it is easy for us to do the right thing, especially when we know there is a reward for doing what is right. But at other times, maybe when no one is seeing us, it is more difficult for us to always do the right thing. But the most extreme of these circumstances occurs when, if we do what we believe is the right thing to do, then we may suffer some adverse consequence of our actions. The lesson that we should take away from this portion of scripture is that, **the right thing to do is always the right thing to do**, no matter what the surroundings look like. Whether we are being watched and applauded or whether we, like Shadrack Meshach and Abednego, are staring at the face of a fiery furnace, **it is always the right time to do the right thing**.

Today may serve for you not just a time of getting closer to God but also it may serve as a time for you to evaluate is going on in your life currently to see if there are some actions that you have taken or that you need to take which should be corrected so that you are doing the right thing. Let me encourage you to make a list of the things in your life that you may need to do despite what the circumstances are surrounding those things.

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Here on day 16, we find the first two verses of chapter 6 to be very interesting. It seems like in the story that the king, because of all these events that had taken place, was having trouble sleeping. So, he thought that having the law or the records read to him that would help him to relax and go to sleep. So, he called for the Book of Records or the book of the chronicles to be brought to him and for someone to read those stories to him. Verse #2 opens up with these words, **“it was found written.”** You have read what comes after this, so I will not recount that portion of the story for you.

My focus today is simply on the Word. Of course, I am not speaking of the events or Chronicles of a king and his Kingdom, but I am speaking to you today of the words of God Himself. We started on the first two days focusing in just upon the story of Esther and reading the Word over and over. There have been some that in the 21 days of fasting who have read the entire Bible, the entire record of God from Genesis to Revelation. If you are one of those, then congratulations you will be better because of that. But whether you have read the entire Bible or just portions of it let me remind you that the Word of God is quick, it is powerful, it is sharp, and most of all **it is alive**. The Word of God is not a static document that was written hundreds or thousands of years ago that has become out of date and antiquated. The word of God is alive and is active for your use today. When you read the Word it opens up to you the heart of God. When you read the Word and the stories of the individuals who have pursued after God or ran away from God. What you find is a picture of yourself. You also find in those stories about individuals the details of how God interacts with mankind. There are those who would say that once God created and established humans on the planet that He has set back on His throne and just watches it happen with no interaction with mankind. That has to be one of the most ridiculous theories that I have ever heard. Because the word of God is given to us in such a manner, and it itself is of such character, it transcends all generations, all time slots, and all of the division in between the throne of God and mankind itself.

Let me encourage you to make a plan for consuming the word of God. Maybe you want to go find a read through the Bible in a year type program. Perhaps you would rather start at the book of Genesis and read straight through to the Book of Revelation. Whatever your technique is, just make a plan to make it happen. The Word of God is without argument the most important information that you will ever put into your memory that has ever been written in the history of mankind. Treat it as the most precious treasure that you could ever imagine.

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**Notes**












2/6		Miracle Sunday – Celebration Sunday	
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