



## For Such a Time As This

**I**n the Bible from the Book of Esther, [Esther 4:6-14] we read about the strength and courage of one woman—more importantly of a person prepared by the Lord to assist her nation and people during perilous



times.

The account we would like to focus on is when Mordecai [her uncle] sent to Esther, the queen, information of a plot to destroy her people. We read: “So Hatach [one of the king’s chamberlains] went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king’s gate.”

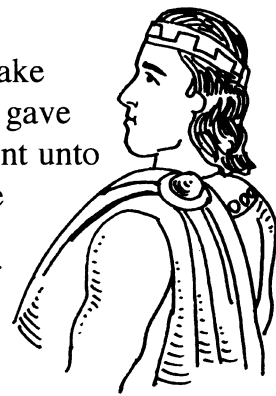
“And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king’s treasuries for the Jews to destroy

them.”

“Also he gave him [Hatach] the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther [the queen], and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.”

“And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.”

“Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai; All the king’s servants, and the people of the king’s provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.”



“And they told to Mordecai Esther’s words. Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the



king's house, more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: *and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*" (Italics added)

Then Esther's response echoes in the ears and hearts for with faith in God she responds, "Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."

We find this a fascinating parallel to the men and women of 1776, who

were willing to sacrifice all they had for their new nation, their freedom and their people. "*If I perish, I perish*" seemed to be words embraced by America's early patriots.

The Founding Fathers of this great nation felt a divine destiny for America. They trusted in God and expressed the following feeling through their words and deeds, "*Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*"

Together, as we study and read some of the events and circumstances surrounding the Declaration of Independence, we believe these words will echo in the minds of our readers, "*Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*"

### Suggestions for Study

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- Who was Esther and where can we read the full account of Esther?
- Why was it so dangerous to go to the King without being summoned? Let's talk about it.
- What could have been the result of her doing so?
- Why was it important that Esther go to the king at that time?
- What did Esther do in preparation of seeing the King and what did she ask her people to do?
- What similarities can we see between Esther and the Signers of the Declaration of Independence? Let's talk about them.