

# “On the Way” 365 Bible Reading Plan

# ESTHER 4

## Esther 4

Esther four has one of the most quoted passages in the entire Bible, as it relates a person’s place or task in life. The passage is Esther 4:14, **“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”** (Underline emphasis mine). But before we get to that verse, let’s examine the story line which is detailed in chapter three.

Wicked Haman devised a conspiracy to exterminate all the Jews in the Persian Empire. Why? Because **“...Mordecai would not bow or pay homage”** (Esther 3:2b) The word translated by the phrase, **“to pay homage”** is used approximately 190 times in the Old Testament; half those times it is translated “to worship” either in present or past tense. This means that Haman wanted more than just respect, he wanted worship. Just like the three Hebrew young men of the Book of Daniel, who would not bend the knee to worship the great image of Nebuchadnezzar, so Mordecai would not bend the knee in worship to anyone except the true and living God. This infuriated wicked Haman, because He knew he

could not control Mordecai or intimidate him or others like him with the same DNA. So, it sought to get rid of anyone he could not control or intimidate.

“Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely” and this was a perfect portrait of this axiom. Haman was furious, so he decided to “Cast Lots, **Pur**” to see when the best time would be to destroy the Jews. He believed that the ancient gods gathered together to determine the destinies of those living on earth. Keep this in mind when reading chapter nine. He persuaded the King to destroy the Jewish people, all Jews, no one knowing his beloved Queen Esther was a Jew. So, when the plot was made known to Mordecai, He knew Esther had been providentially placed by God as Queen to save the Jewish race. When he approached Esther, she was hesitant, but Mordecai assured her she would not escape the dreaded decree if she did not intervene and perhaps this very event was why she **“had been brought into the Kingdom, for such a time as this.”**

### Prayer and Action Steps

*Dear Lord, give me divine wisdom to know when to speak and when to keep silent. Amen*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture \_\_\_\_\_

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

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What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

\_\_\_\_\_

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Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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