

## Lenten Devotional Day 13, For Such a Time as This

By Mary Kane



*"And Mordecai told [them] to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews.*

*"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?"*

*Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which [is] against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"*

*Esther 4:13-16*

**E**sther was a young Jewish girl who lived in Babylon with her uncle, after the Babylonian Exile. Later in life, because of her great beauty, Esther was chosen by King Xerxes to be queen of Persia. Due to the plotting of King Xerxes' aide, all people of Jewish descent who lived in Babylon were to be exterminated. Queen Esther was urged by her uncle to go before King Xerxes and beg for the lives of her people. Due to the custom of the time, appealing to the king without first being summoned could mean death to the one who dared to approach him. Esther relayed her fear to her uncle and he replied with the famous "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

In response, Esther called upon her people to fast for her for three days in preparation for her approach to the king. Esther and her maids also committed to the three-day fast. Three days is considered the limit in which a human can survive without water. The need was desperate, so Esther called for a desperate fast. Her life and the lives of her people were hanging in the balance.

The king, however, accepted Esther's request for an audience and she was able to save the lives of her people.

Like Esther, our need is desperate also; the lives of our people hang in the balance. Think for a moment about the desperate issues that our nation faces today; the debt crisis, sensitive foreign policies, terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal aliens, war in the Middle East. Traditional family values are under attack as never before. Thankfully, we do not have to fear for our lives when seeking an audience with the King. Because of the blood of Christ, we may boldly approach the throne of grace and plead for our people.

During this Lenten season, like Esther and the Jewish people, let's once again unite as the people of God and fast for the healing and salvation of our nation.

**Application:**

In the space below, please record an issue that challenges our nation for which you would like to pray and fast:

Now please check the box next to the fast you would like to do:

*(As always please use common sense concerning fasting and check with your doctor if you have any health issues or concerns before you attempt to do a fast.)*

- Fast from one meal for one day.
- Fast from one meal a day for a week.
- Fast from a favorite food for a week or longer.
- Fast from a favorite TV program for a week or longer.
- Fast from technology or social media for a week or longer.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_.

**Prayer:**

Dearest Holy Father,  
Thank You that You have given us the privilege to affect our world with prayer and fasting. You have placed us in our nation, in our state, in our city, in our neighborhoods, schools, churches and work places for "such a time as this." Like Queen Esther, please help us to take our place in history and pray and fast for the needs of our nation. We ask that You answer our prayers according to Your perfect will.

In Jesus Holy Name,

Amen.

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