For Such A Time as This
Chapter 4

VV. 1-3—Mordecai mourns in sackcloth and ashes, but there is no mention of prayer. The Jews throughout the kingdom mourn, but still there is no mention of prayer.

V. 4—Queen Esther is embarrassed by the conduct of Mordecai, and she sends him a new suit of clothes. There is an application here. **The covering of religion will not remove the fact that man is a guilty sinner before God.** Neither will religion alter the fact that the wages of sin is death. Mordecai refuses the new garments.

VV. 5-8—Esther knows now that there is some serious crisis and she sends Hatach to learn the nature of it. Mordecai returns to her a copy of the terrible decree.

VV. 9-11—Esther reports back to Mordecai that there is nothing she can do, as she does not have access to the king.

VV. 12-14—Mordecai sends back an SOS. Her life is in danger because she is a Jewess, her relatives are in danger, and her nation is in danger. If she refuses to accept the challenge, deliverance will come from another place. Obviously this is a veiled reference to the providence of God.

VV. 15-17—Esther accepts this challenge. Notice that she makes no reference to prayer, only to fasting. The strange providences of God are becoming evident, and there is revealed a confidence in the unnamed One. V. The scepter of grace and the nobility of Esther.

The Scepter Of Grace
Chapter 5

V. 1—For anyone to appear before the king without permission means instant death—unless the king holds out the scepter to the intruder. Esther displays a brave nobility as she arbitrarily goes into his presence.

V. 2—The king extends his scepter toward her, and she comes near and touches it. *The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water; he turneth it withersoever he will. (Proverbs 21:1)*

V. 3—The king senses that a real crisis has arisen which brings the queen into his presence. He gives her assurance by promising to grant her request even to half of the kingdom.

VV. 4, 5—Esther is still reluctant to state her case and invites the king and Haman to a banquet (luncheon).

V. 6—8Again the king renews his assurance by offering her a blank check. The queen promises to reveal her request at another banquet on the following day, if the king and Haman will accept her invitation.

VV. 9-14—Haman goes from the banquet filled with joy and pride, though the sight of Mordecai dulls the edge of his joy. He returns to his home and begins to boast.

"There is no panic in Heaven! God has no problems, only plans." – Corrie ten Boom

When the King Could Not Sleep
Chapter 6

V. 1—That the king could not sleep seems a very small thing, but God uses small things. "God swings great doors on little hinges." Years before, in Egypt, God brought a woman's heart and a baby's cry together when Pharaoh's daughter found the baby Moses in the Nile River. By this He changed the destiny of a nation. Evidently, hearing the uninteresting records of the kingdom was conducive to sleep. They are the king's sleeping pill.

V. 3—The king learns that Mordecai had not been recognized or rewarded.

Do you see that little coincidences are beginning to pile up? They reveal that God's hand is in the glove of human circumstance. His providence is moving, overruling and overriding events.

• It wasn't an accident Mordecai served at the palace.

 • It wasn't an accident his girl, Esther, became queen.

 • It's no accident she found favor in everyone's sight, especially the king's.

• It's no accident that she courageously asked the king her request, that he generously granted it. and that he's coming to her private banquet.

 • And it's no accident that on this night when he can't sleep and asks for the chronicles to be read to him, that the exact thing which is read points to a certain event. None of this is by accident; God by His providence is overruling.

Application : **Spiritual preparation + spiritual warfare = God's Promotion (Breakthroughs in Life) Your destiny and Kingdom purpose will involve a test whether you just want a blessing or BE a blessing.**