

ESTHER: “IF I PERISH, I PERISH!”

(Esther 4)

I. INTRODUCTION

II. THE KING’S ROYAL BANQUETS AND THE QUEEN’S DISMISSAL (1:1-22)

III. THE SEARCH FOR A NEW QUEEN (2:1-18)

IV. HAMAN DEVISES A PLOT TO DESTROY THE JEWISH PEOPLE (3:6-15)

V. QUEEN ESTHER LEARNS OF HAMAN’S CONSPIRACY (4:1-17)

A. The Great MOURNING of Mordecai and the Jews (4:1-8)

1. We can certainly sympathize with Mordecai’s strong reaction; he most likely felt _____ for the instigation of this devilish decree. (vv. 1-2)

2. Mourning in _____ and _____ while fasting was a common expression of personal grief for the average Jew in the Old Testament. (Gen. 37:32-34; 2 Sam. 3:31-32; Isa. 58:3-5; Lam. 3:40-66).

* What typically accompanied fasting in the Scriptures?

* What should us citizens of the United States do when laws are passed that are anti-biblical?

3. Queen Esther made several attempts to discover the cause of Mordecai’s _____ behavior in front of the king’s gate. (4:4-6)

a. Esther’s personal servant Hathach was given the _____ story and a _____ of the written decree. (vv. 7-8a)

b. Mordecai (Hadassah’s guardian since she was a little girl) commanded *her to go in to the king...and _____ before him for _____ people.* (v. 8b)

B. Esther is Persuaded to PETITION the King (4:9-17)

1. From Esther's explanation, she gave Mordecai her reasoning for _____ going into the king's presence; there was a possibility that she would be _____. (vv. 10-11)

2. Mordecai's reasoning was that she would be executed _____ anyway, along with all the other Jews; she would not escape Persian law in the palace from which it _____. (v. 13)

3. Like all human beings, Esther was not without flaw; but certainly our heroine should be judged more by the brave act she _____ than by the natural _____ she had to fight against.
 - a. Verse 14 teaches us that God who is sovereign will accomplish all His objectives with or without you; but He calls you _____ out of His need for you, but for _____ to find fulfillment in serving Him.

 - b. The Lord wants to _____ right where you are; now is the appointed time!

4. Without having a great deal of time to think it over, Esther determined in her mind to _____, no matter what the consequences to her personally: "*If I perish, I perish.*" (v. 16)

* What can you personally apply from this chapter?