



The Book Of Esther

E S T H E R 1 - 1 0

The book of Esther narrates an event of the time when God's people found themselves in captivity. It tells a story of a young, orphaned girl [Esther] who lived with her uncle [Mordecai], and under his care and advice, she rose to royalty. Esther became queen of the whole Persian empire and later saved the entire nation of Israel from mass extinction. In the book of Esther, we see that the name of God was not mentioned, but His works are evident. He is the master orchestrator behind the scenes arranging circumstances to preserve Israel. The absence of His name in the book does not negate His presence. So even when you feel like He isn't there, trust that He is there and He's working things for your good.

It is the only book where a woman without any ordination or visible spiritual gifts becomes God's hand and voice within that land. It is also not so much of a book containing supernatural events like Exodus, but it is a book of provision, where God shows himself as a God of PROVIDENCE. Providence is when God works through circumstances, human choices, and the natural order of things to fulfil His will; it is sometimes referred to as divine coincidence. Always remember that God is invested in how things are going for you.

The story starts with the king showing off his wealth, and at some point, he calls Queen Vashti [his wife] to parade her to those around him, and she refuses. From that moment, the queen was dethroned, and the king began the search for her replacement. From the first scene, there is so much that you can learn about honour, favour and pride. Queen Vashti became too complacent in her position, and because of pride, she rejected the king's invitation. Remember always to give honour where it's due. Note that most times, favour from men is a result of honour, so you can activate favour by sowing honour.

The thing about favour is that it can come both from man and God. Esther 2:17 [NKJV] says, "The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti." The favour of God caused her to be favoured by the king. Even though Esther was beautiful, it wasn't her beauty alone that got her to become queen because the other women there were also beautiful. God's favour truly made Esther stand out and eventually become queen. Don't depend on your natural abilities. If you are smart, educated, and from a good background, thank God for all that but don't depend on it. Favour puts you ahead when there seems to be someone who meets the criteria better than you.

After Esther was made queen, Haman's [he was a highly ranked official] hatred toward the Jewish people grew, and he devised a plan to execute all of them. When the Jews heard of it, they were greatly distressed, so Mordecai [Esther's uncle] went to see Esther concerning the threat. Esther seemed hesitant to intervene because going to see the king without an invitation would have landed her dead. So, Mordecai told her in Esther 4:14 [NKJV], "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?"

God positions you in certain places because He has an assignment for you. Once you have been positioned at a particular place of influence or authority, you should not remain silent but exercise the will of God. Do not forget your mission because promotions appear to come with a level of comfort which dilutes urgency. If you don't step in to promote God's agenda, God will

use someone else, and you'll miss out on an opportunity to advance the Kingdom. God is only interested in whatever promotes His Kingdom on earth; He wants His interests to be promoted. Keep sight of the reason for your promotion. God intentionally positions you where you are because He has a role for you to play.

Esther then decided to rise to the challenge; she said, "if I die, I die." She was prepared to face the consequences of seeing the king without an invite. You can only enter a higher dimension of your calling when you realise that there is something bigger than your own life. Your life on earth shouldn't be all you hold onto dearly because there is more to breathing, eating and sleeping – there is a divine calling attached to your life. You should be willing to risk it all for the sake of the mission, trusting God to do His part. And through Esther's willingness to step up, God used her to save the entire nation.

