



HOPE WHEN ALL SEEMS LOST

The Book of Esther

FIVE MAIN CHARACTERS

KING XERXES: Powerful, erratic Persian ruler

VASHTI: First queen, deposed when she dares to take a stand

ESTHER: Jewish orphan, rises from obscurity to become queen

MORDECAI: Raised orphan Esther; challenges Esther to save her people

HAMAN: The vain villain; determined to exterminate all Jews

TWO KEYS TO STAYING HOPEFUL IN TOUGH TIMES:

1. Remember I have a _____

“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position **for such a time as this?**” Esther 4:14b

“... **if I perish, I perish.**” Esther 4:16

2. Remember God’s _____

While God is _____, God is not _____

How do I stay hopeful when God seems silent?

When you can’t sense God’s _____, remember God’s _____

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

QUESTIONS

For personal reflection or group discussion

1. Review the notes from this weekend’s message. Which parts of Esther’s story hit home for you? Why?
2. How can you now see, looking back, God’s hand at work behind the scenes in your life? Give one specific example.
3. What does this teach you about how God is at work in your current situation?
4. Mordecai told Esther that she was in the palace “for such a time as this.” How could this apply to you right now, right where you are?
5. How can this story, which never even mentions the name of God, encourage your faith in God’s plan for your life?

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