

Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose



to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior



2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
  
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed



- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose



to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior



2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed



- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose



to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior



2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed



- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose



to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
  
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior



2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed



- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose



to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior



2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed



- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose



to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
  
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior



2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed



- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
  
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose



to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior



2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed



- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.





Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
  
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
  
    - 2. Risk of identification
  
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
  
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
  
    - 2. Queen Esther
  
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
  
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose



to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior

2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.



Pivotal Circumstances  
Esther 4:1 – 5:14  
January 31, 2012

- I. Review
  - A. Chapter Two
    - 1. Virgins assembled
    - 2. Esther
    - 3. Mordecai
    - 4. Assassination plot against Xerxes
  - B. Chapter Three
    - 1. Haman
    - 2. Haman's revenge
    - 3. Reaction
- II. Mordecai's Response – Esther 4:1-3
  - A. Sackcloth and Ashes
    - 1. Common O.T. response to grief
    - 2. Persian grief
    - 3. God's take – Joel 2:12-14
- III. Esther's Response – Vv. 4-5
  - A. Distress
    - 1. At Mordecai's behavior



2. Isolation

IV. Mordecai's Request of Esther – Vv. 6-11

A. Making the Case – Vv. 6-8

1. Filling Esther in
2. Beg for mercy

B. Esther "Begs Off" – Vv. 9-11

1. Not exactly, "No"
2. Approaching the king
3. Esther's thoughts – if we could know them

V. Mordecai Responds – Vv. 12-14

A. Another Place

1. Veiled reference to God?
  - a. Some say it is
  - b. Problems with that
  - c. What Mordecai is saying
2. You will perish
  - a. Is that a threat?
3. Mordecai's point

B. For Such a Time as This

1. Purpose
  - a. There is a reason for all that has happened
2. Esther is swayed

- VI. Esther's Decision – Vv. 15-17
  - A. Esther Commands Mordecai
    - 1. Fast
    - 2. If I perish, I perish
      - a. Changed outlook
  - B. Esther's Pivotal Circumstance
    - 1. Two names: Esther and Hadassah
      - a. With whom will she identify?
    - 2. Risk of identification
    - 3. Overcoming herself
  - C. Our Pivotal Circumstances
    - 1. For such a time as this
- VII. Esther, Xerxes, & Haman – Esther 5:1-8
  - A. Esther Approaches the King – Vv. 1-2
    - 1. Irony
    - 2. Queen Esther
    - 3. Royal scepter extended
    - 4. "On the third day..."
      - a. Theological significance of three days

"On the third day the Persian king, whose word is irrevocable law, extends the golden scepter to Esther, lest she die for coming into his presence unsummoned. Esther approaches the king and completes this gracious gesture by touching the tip of the scepter. Her safety in his presence is thereby granted. This scene pictures a gracious act of a king who holds life-and-death power. Had God not extended the cross of Jesus Christ to the world, all would die in his presence. 'On the third day' after the final judgment transpired on the cross, Jesus Christ arose

to imperishable life, guaranteeing safety to enter God's presence to all who reach out in faith to touch that cross-shaped scepter."<sup>1</sup>

- B. Invitation – Vv. 3-5a
  - 1. Up to half the kingdom
  - 2. Esther's political acumen
  
- C. At the Banquet – Vv. 5b-8
  - 1. While they were drinking...
  - 2. To what was the king agreeing?
  - 3. Why the delay tactic?
  
- VIII. Haman's Seventy-Five Foot Pride – Vv. 9-14
  - A. Mordecai – Vv. 9-10
    - 1. Filled with rage
  - B. Boasting – Vv. 10b-14
    - 1. Zeresh's suggestion
  
- IX. For Such a Time As This
  - A. We Know the End of This Story
    - 1. No guarantee
  - B. We Don't Know the End of the Story
    - 1. Where do we turn in times of trial?
    - 2. The only safe place – Joel 2:12-14

---

<sup>1</sup> Jobes, Karen. *The NIV Application Commentary on Esther*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press, 1999, pg. 147.

