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For Such A Time As This

Esther 1-10


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## Key Dates in the Period of the Return and Restoration\*


- 538/37 B.C.** first return of the Jews under Zerubbabel (Ezra 1-2)
- 537/36 B.C.** the altar built and the foundation laid (Ezra 3)
- 536-520 B.C.** the work on the temple ceases (Ezra 4)
- 520 B.C.** the preaching of Haggai (1-2) and Zechariah (1-6)
- 520 B.C.** the temple construction resumes (Ezra 5)
- 518 B.C.** the preaching of Zechariah (Zechariah 7-14)
- 516/15 B.C.** the temple is completed (Ezra 6)
- 486 B.C.** the Jews opposed in the beginning of Xerxes (Ezra 4:6)
- 483 B.C.** Xerxes holds a feast (Esther 1)
- 479 B.C.** Esther is made queen (Esther 2)
- 474/73 B.C.** Haman plans to kill the Jews (Esther 3-10)
- 464-423 B.C.** the Jews opposed in Artaxerxes' reign (Ezra 7:7ff)
- 458/57 B.C.** the second return of the Jews under Ezra (Ezra 7-10)
- 445-433 B.C.** Nehemiah returns & rebuilds the walls (Neh. 1-12)
- 433-432 B.C.** Nehemiah's recall and return (Nehemiah 13)
- 432-425 B.C.** the preaching of Malachi (1-4)

\* all dates are approximate


# The story of Esther...

1. Xerxes holds a feast and Vashti is removed from being queen
  2. Esther is selected to be queen and Mordecai saves the king's life
  3. Haman gets angry at Mordecai and plans to kill all the Jews
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# The story of Esther...

4. The mourning of the Jews and the courage of Esther
  5. The first banquet of Esther and the pride of Haman
  6. Mordecai is honored and Haman is disgraced
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# The story of Esther...


7. The second banquet of Esther and the hanging of Haman
  8. Esther's request for her people and the Jews authorized to resist their enemies
  9. The Jews destroy their enemies and the feast of Purim is instituted
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# The story of Esther...

10. The greatness of Mordecai and the  
goodness of Mordecai

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# It was a time for...

- ▶ Far-reaching decisions (4:1-8,13-14)
  - ▶ Life-threatening choices (4:9-12)
  - ▶ Faith-building habits (4:16a)
  - ▶ Ever-increasing boldness (4:16b)
  - ▶ Life-preserving actions (7:3-6; 8:3-6)
  - ▶ Long-lasting celebrations (9:14-32)
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# Open doors...

- ▶ God opens doors (Acts 14:27)
  - ▶ Go through them (1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12)
  - ▶ Pray for open doors (Col. 4:3)
  - ▶ Use your opportunities (Eph. 5:16)
  - ▶ Look for more (Acts 8:40; 17:16; 18:7)
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