

December 17

Thursday

Esther 4.10-17



Esther Accuses Harman | Jan Lievens | c. 1625

In the book of Esther, the King of the Persian Empire has passed a law allowing all of the Jews in the kingdom to be killed. Esther, who is secretly a Jew, has been chosen for her beauty to be the Queen of the land. In this passage, Esther is afraid to ask the King to reverse the law to kill the Jews. Anyone who goes to talk to the King is automatically killed unless he chooses to spare their life.

In verse 14, Esther's cousin Mordecai says Esther's current unlikely position as Queen may have been divinely arranged specifically so she would be in the position to save the Jews in this way. Though the book of Esther never mentions God directly, Mordecai's faith in God's plan and protection is clear every time he speaks. Esther's answer is that the Jews should all fast and she says she will "go to the King, even though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." Esther has gained courage from the faith of Mordecai and has realized that she is indeed part of God's plan. She is willing to risk her life to do the next right thing.

Are you, like Esther, being asked to courageously step out and do something God has asked you to do? Or, like Mordecai, are you being asked to be a voice of wisdom to others, showing them your faith in God's plan even in tough times? Or are you, like the Jewish community, being asked to fast and pray and support others who are making tough choices, even though you don't know how it will all end?

Lord God Almighty, show me the path in life that has gotten me to this point. Help me to see what I have learned along the way, and how that can be a help to others on a similar path. Give me the courage to step out and make a difference in the world, bringing comfort and the message of Jesus to others. Amen.

Kevin Ware