



ESTHER: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

“The Invisible Man”

Esther 1:1-2:4

November 10, 2024

[Read Esther 1:1-9](#)

The Big Problem (Question) Where is God in this book & story?

The Big Picture – during the Babylonian Exile: 485 B.C. - 464 B.C.
Author is unknown (could have been written by Esther/Mordecai or Ezra)
Written somewhere between 350-450 B.C.

The Big Players – the main characters

Xerxes King of the Persian empire – Ahasuerus 486 B.C. - 465 B.C.

Vashti Queen of Persia until 483 B.C.

Mordecai Jewish man, tribe of Benjamin, living in exile Esther’s cousin (she was his uncle’s daughter) who raised her as his own, more like a father than her cousin.

Esther a Jewish orphaned girl whose parents had died. Jewish name was Hadassah, meant myrtle, a lowly bush and fragrance. Persian name meant star.

Haman was the highest noble in Xerxes’ court - the prime minister

The Big Plan – King Xerxes / Persian Empire [Proverbs 21:1](#)

1. His enormous pride & prestige [1:1-4](#)
2. His extravagant & excessive parties [1:4-10](#)
3. His endless power [1:1, 10-12](#)
4. His entitled empathetic princes & their poor pronouncement [1:13-22](#)
5. His enforced “pageant” [2:1-4](#)

The Big Perspective – God is the main character & His divine providence
[Ephesians 1:11](#); [Philippians 1:6](#); [2:13](#); [Romans 8:28](#)

1. God is always at work, even in the silence or darkness

2. God many times works behind the scenes even when we aren't aware of it
3. God works through the ordinary & mundane
4. God's power and plans cannot & will not be stopped
5. God uses all kinds of people for His purposes.
6. God is looking for willing people
 - A. Willing to step out of their comfort zone
 - B. Willing to sacrifice and serve
 - C. Willing to surrender
 - D. Willing to seize the opportunity

RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

1. What are some ways that pride can easily surface in the life of a believer? What are some strategies for combating and conquering pride?
2. Has there been a time in your life when you couldn't see, hear or feel the Lord? When was that & how did you eventually come to recognize His presence & promises? When we cannot see, hear, or feel God, what should we do?
3. Share a time in your life that may have seemed lucky or coincidental at the time, but as you look back now you see how God was at work to grow and deepen you & your faith. Why are these times so important?
4. How does the Lord work in the mundane & ordinary moments of your life? Why do we tend to recognize His hand more in the miraculous than the mundane?