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THE ASHLAND  
CHURCH OF CHRIST IN 2009

***“Note Those Who So Walk”***

Philippians 3:17

2Thessalonians 3:14

***“Note Those Who So Walk”***

***Esther — For Such a Time as This***

***Text: Esther 4:4***

Esther 4:14, *“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”*

Introduction:

1. Miracles and providence:

A. Miracles are God acting outside of what is natural:

- 1) Creation (Genesis 1).
- 2) Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3).
- 3) The valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37).
- 4) The transfiguration (Matthew 17:2, Mark 9:2).
- 5) The fire descending on the disciples' heads (Acts 2).

B. Providence is God working within the laws of nature:

- 1) Praying for the sick to become well.
- 2) Praying for rain.
- 3) The political changes which occurred throughout history.
- 4) We work and the Lord provides.
- 5) Christ coming through the line of the Jewish people.

2. Esther is a book of providence.

## I. **Esther in providence.**

- A. Esther 4:14.
- B. The one incident does not make it providence but the whole story indicates such:
  - 1. Esther rises to royal power in chapters 1-2.
  - 2. Haman is resistant to the Jews and promoted to more power (3).
  - 3. Esther wants to help the Jews (4-5).
  - 4. Mordecai is honored and Haman punished (6-7).
  - 5. Esther ends up saving the Jews (8-10).
- C. Did she know it was providence in Esther 4? Probably not.
- D. Yet a little encouragement from Mordecai and Esther stepped up.
- E. Do you and I step up or do we back down?

## II. **Esther in power.**

- A. First, we noticed Esther’s humility (1:7-8, 4).
- B. She encourages her people (the Jews) to fast (and possibly pray) for her (4:16).
- C. She delivers her people in a rather diplomatic way (8).
- D. Haman was proud of his power (5:12-14) but Esther uses her power.
- E. Haman is hanged instead of Mordecai (7:1-10).

## III. **Esther in protection.**

- A. Justice was found...eventually...and providentially.
- B. The Jews were able to avenge themselves (9:1-17).
- C. The Jews were able to celebrate their feasts (9:18-32).
- D. Mordecai was remembered (10).
- E. All because Esther heeded Mordecai’s advice (4:14).

### Conclusions:

- 1. We do not always know what is providence and what is not (Esther 4:14).
- 2. Whoever said women cannot do anything!
- 3. Sometimes we do not get what we deserve. It will be found out.
- 4. Standing for what was right was hard on Vashti but good for the Jews.
- 5. God can indeed work providentially today.