

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship | Esther
May 8, 2024 | “The Empire Strikes Back” | **Esther 2:21–4:3**

1) An _____ in the _____
(2:21–24)

2) A _____ across the _____
(3:1–6)

3) A _____ Backroom _____
(3:7–15)

4) A _____ Day for God’s _____
(4:1–3)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Esther 2:21–3:6. How did Mordecai protect the king from assassination? Why wasn’t Mordecai rewarded for that action? Are there times when our good actions aren’t immediately rewarded? Should we desire immediate rewards (or punishments) for our actions?

Read Esther 3:7–4:3. Why is Haman so angry at Mordecai? Why is he angry at the Jewish people? Was Mordecai right to refuse to bow to Haman? Were his actions pious or proud? Was Haman’s response to Mordecai proportionate to his insubordination?

What do Mordecai’s actions in 4:1–2 signify? Is he sad? Is he remorseful? Is he repentant? What glimmers of hope are found in this passage? What glimmers of hope are found in the Scriptures when evil proliferates in our world?

GET PERSONAL

Do you trust God’s sovereign purposes in your life in the midst of a tragedy? What about personal suffering? What about societal sin and dysfunction? What does God promise his people? What promises do you hold onto in the midst of great suffering? How did God use the greatest tragedy in our world to bring about the greatest work of redemption?

Were the Jews in Persia right to be anxious and mournful in 4:3? Should we be anxious as Christians? Should we mourn? What in our world causes you to be fearful and anxious? How do you address that anxiety and cast your cares upon the Lord (Phil 4:6–7; 2 Tim 1:7; 1 Pet 5:7; Heb 13:6)?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Why does antisemitism rear its ugly head so often in our world? Where do we see that in the OT? Where do we see that in the NT and throughout human history? What role will the Jewish nation play at the end of the world? Watch the following video that discusses the connections between “The Church and Israel” in the realm of ecclesiology (i.e. the doctrine of the church) and eschatology (i.e. doctrine of last things).

<https://app.vidgrid.com/view/jRitUn4wN7vg>

Why does God allow bad things to happen in our world? Why do bad things happen to good people? Use the video below on the book of Job to wrestle through the issue of theodicy. How does Roman 8:28 inform our understanding of this matter as Christians?

<https://app.vidgrid.com/view/k3AWIpeko3GB>