



THE STORY *continues...*

*Join us each week as God weaves His Story into the fabric
of our daily lives.*

Chapter 20 Queen of Beauty and Courage

Listen to *The Story*

*Read **Chapter 20** of The Story*

“God’s grace is depicted in Esther through the heroine as a type of Jesus. She, like our Savior, is willing to die for her people and is an advocate on their behalf.

The book shows how God in His grace preserves His people in the face of danger and opposition, as He protected them from the threat of annihilation. Through ordinary people God overcomes impossible obstacles to accomplish His gracious will.

A central purpose of the narrative is to record the annual festival of Purim, a yearly reminder of God’s faithfulness to His people.”

Learn *The Story*

*Look for ways in which God’s story and your story
connect this week.*

Mordecai tells Esther that God may have raised her to be queen “for such a time as this.” ~ *Esther 4:14*

This is your time ...

- Why do you think that God chose this time for your life? What is it about your gifts, your personality, your opportunities that make this the ideal time for you to be on the planet?
- What is the role that you play at Trinity? ... in your family? ... in your job/school? ... in your community?
- How might God be asking you to take use that role for a greater good?
- Embrace your time. Write a prayer of Thanksgiving for this time that God has placed you ... it is His gift to you and to those around you.

Love *The Story*

Intentionally take a step forward in faith.

Write a note, send a text, make a phone call, or meet together with a woman in your life whose beauty and courage has been an inspiration to you.

Tell them how God has used them to play a significant role in your life.

Share with them how it is easier for you to be courageous as well because they have blazed that trail before you. Courage is a beautiful thing!

Luther's Explanation

The book of Esther reflects the challenges of the Jews who were uprooted from their homeland when Jerusalem was destroyed by foreign powers – especially the concern for their safety. Because the king favored her, Esther rose to a position of power and she was able, along with her uncle Mordecai, to use her influence to change some lives, and to save her people. But the locals did not fare so well.

Martin Luther said about the book of Esther, “The greater part of a nation always belongs to the devil... Thus there is no doubt that ... Mordecai and Esther gained many people. But they were not able to convert the kingdom in its entirety.” (Luther's Works 8:93)



There is no mention of God in the book of Esther. But because it is part of our Holy Scriptures, we can trust that God is involved. Perhaps it is an opportunity for us to look for God's work in between the lines of the story – and in our own lives.

All of us will have a time when we ask, “Where is God?” The book of Esther gives us the reassurance that our questions are okay. It challenges us to trust God even when times are dangerous and we feel like we don't have the answers. God knows what we need.

PROMISE

This week, cling to God's promise for you:
“This is your time: Live courageously.”

The EXTRA Mile



Watch *A Night with the King* (2006), a movie based on the book, *Hadassah: A Night with the King* by Tommy Tenney.