

Light and Life

For Such a Time as This

While in the rest of the Bible God is more directly a part of the scriptural narrative, in the book of Esther His involvement is more low-key. Though God is not directly mentioned in the book, His hand is seen in everything. Through God's subtle workings, His plan came to fruition and His purposes were accomplished.

Esther was an orphan, taken in and cared for by her uncle, Mordecai (Es. 2:7). From humble and tragic beginnings and through the workings of God, she soon found herself to be Queen of Persia (vs 17).

When wicked Haman advanced through the ranks and sought the destruction of the Jews because of Mordecai's refusal to bow and pay homage to him (ch 3), Esther was suddenly in a place of great consequence regarding the destiny of her people. When Mordecai discovered Haman's plot to destroy the Jews, he sent word to Queen Esther: "If you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place... Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time?" (4:14).

Mordecai had trust in God that no matter what Esther chose to do that He would protect His people. Our God is a faithful God! Mordecai also knew that God uses His people to accomplish His purposes. Perhaps Esther was chosen by God to rise from the tragedy of being orphaned to becoming a savior to her people! And Esther did just that.

The book of Esther teaches the valuable lesson that God is always in control and that He puts His people in situations to serve. Let us use the situations God puts us in as Esther did – to His glory!

- *Sam Bunyard*

Just My Thoughts

Serving Like Joshua

"But if it is displeasing in your sight to serve the LORD, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!" (Josh 24:15)

This famous challenge, given by Joshua, leader of the Israelites, is one that many Christians are familiar with. But while these words may be famous, we can easily forget what serving the Lord was like in the days of Joshua.

Serving the Lord in the days of Joshua meant plunging into the face of certain death with confidence and faith in Him. Serving the Lord in Joshua's day meant tackling entire fortified cities and nations with little equipment, with meager numbers, and little experience. Serving the Lord in the days of Joshua was a terrifying thing, and yet Joshua did it with confidence, as did his household. This was because the Lord Joshua served leveled armies with His hands, made the very sun stand still, and gave Joshua and the Israelites an entire nation to possess.

We may not serve the Lord in the same way as Joshua (we aren't clearing out cities of Canaanites!); but we can still confidently tackle the armies of Satan and sin knowing that, although our battles are different, our God is not. He is still the same God who can make the sun stand still, level armies, and give us a home to possess by His hand.

- *Hayden Cathey*



ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

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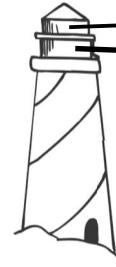
**Some stand on the
promises, while others
just sit on the premises.**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burluson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.
Sick: Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, Js Swim, Tricia Deen
Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis
Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

CONGRATULATIONS – We welcome Becky King as our newest sister in Christ! Becky was recently baptized, so let's do all we can to encourage her!

SENTENCE SERMON – A Bible falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.

Fer It or Agin It?

After hearing it for the 137th time, it doesn't carry the zing it once did, but most have heard of the man who had to miss church one Sunday. When his wife got home, he asked what the sermon was about. "Sin," she replied. He paused, then asked, "Were he fer it or agin it?"

It gets a smile – until we realize that the answer may not be as obvious as we think. As Christians we know that we should be 'agin' sin. And we are – until we aren't. If we say that we love Jesus, but then live like the devil, whose side are we really on? Are we "fer sin or agin it"? It's an age-old problem (Ro 2:21-23).

And the same point could be made about other subjects. Take grace, for example. We know we should be "fer" it. And we are, until we are asked to forgive our enemy (Mt 5: 44); then we're "agin" it. Or maybe we need to forgive ourselves, and we discover that grace is not always as easy as it seems (Ph 3:13-14).

On and on we could go. Most of the "fruits of the Spirit" (Ga 5:22-23) we are for – until we are called upon to put them into practice. Whether love, joy, peace, or any of the rest, our duty is to be "fer 'em", regardless of our preference – or mood at the moment. - *WKing*