

WORSHIP HANDOUT

July 19, 2020

Series: For Such a Time, Lessons from Esther



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drive Through Communion Sunday July 26 from 12-2 @ Hope Main Campus

Bible Study continues on Zoom on Tuesday evenings.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Some boast of their motor cars, and some of their mansions,
but we boast of the name of the Lord of hosts!

**P: Should all else collapse in a heap,
we shall stand up tall.**

L: Do not be impressed by the outward appearance of a person,
for God does not see like we do, but looks into the heart.

**P: If anyone travels with Christ, there is a new creation,
old things are obsolete, all things become new.**

L: Let us worship this God who looks into the human heart
and through Christ Jesus makes all things new.

~ written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on **Bruce Prewer's Home Page.** <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

HYMN

Pass It On 572

TIME OF PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER

God, give me the courage to be revolutionary,

as your Son Jesus Christ was.
Give me the courage to loosen myself from this world.
Teach me to stand up free and to shun no criticism.
God, it is for your kingdom.
Make me free,
make me poor in this world.
Then I will be rich in the real world,
which is what life is all about.
God, thank you for the vision of the future,
but make it fact and not just theory. Amen.

~ Henri J.M. Nouwen

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC) LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom and the power and glory forever.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Andrew

LESSON 1 CEB

Esther 1:1-12

1 This is what happened back when Ahasuerus lived, the very
Ahasuerus who ruled from India to Cush—one hundred twenty-seven
provinces in all. ² At that time, Ahasuerus ruled the kingdom from his
royal throne in the fortified part of Susa. ³ In the third year of his rule
he hosted a feast for all his officials and courtiers. The leaders of Persia
and Media attended, along with his provincial officials and officers. ⁴ He
showed off the awesome riches of his kingdom and beautiful treasures
as mirrors of how very great he was. The event lasted a long time—six

whole months, to be exact! ⁵ After that the king held a seven-day feast for everyone in the fortified part of Susa. Whether they were important people in the town or not, they all met in the walled garden of the royal palace. ⁶ White linen curtains and purple hangings were held up by shining white and red-purple ropes tied to silver rings and marble posts. Gold and silver couches sat on a mosaic floor made of gleaming purple crystal, marble, and mother-of-pearl. ⁷ They served the drinks in cups made of gold, and each cup was different. The king made sure there was plenty of royal wine. ⁸ The rule about the drinks was “No limits!” The king had ordered everyone serving wine in the palace to offer as much as each guest wanted. ⁹ At the same time, Queen Vashti held a feast for women in King Ahasuerus’ palace.

¹⁰ On the seventh day, when wine had put the king in high spirits, he gave an order to Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven eunuchs who served King Ahasuerus personally. ¹¹ They were to bring Queen Vashti before him wearing the royal crown. She was gorgeous, and he wanted to show off her beauty both to the general public and to his important guests. ¹² But Queen Vashti refused to come as the king had ordered through the eunuchs. The king was furious, his anger boiling inside.

LESSON 2 CEB

Esther 1:13-22

¹³ Now, when a need arose, the king would often talk with certain very smart people about the best way to handle it. They were people who knew both the kingdom’s written laws and what judges had decided about cases in the past. ¹⁴ The ones he talked with most often were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan. They were seven very important people in Persia and Media who, as the kingdom’s highest leaders, were in the king’s inner circle. So the king said to them, ¹⁵ “According to the law, what should I do with Queen Vashti since she didn’t do what King Ahasuerus ordered her through the eunuchs?”

¹⁶ Then Memucan spoke up in front of the king and the officials. “Queen Vashti,” he said, “has done something wrong not just to the king

himself. She has also done wrong to all the officials and the peoples in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. ¹⁷ This is the reason: News of what the queen did will reach all women, making them look down on their husbands. They will say, 'King Ahasuerus ordered servants to bring Queen Vashti before him, but she refused to come.' ¹⁸ This very day, the important women of Persia and Media who hear about the queen will tell the royal officials the same thing. There will be no end of put-downs and arguments. ¹⁹ Now, if the king wishes, let him send out a royal order and have it written into the laws of Persia and Media, laws no one can ever change. It should say that Vashti will never again come before King Ahasuerus. It should also say that the king will give her royal place to someone better than she. ²⁰ When the order becomes public through the whole empire, vast as it is, all women will treat their husbands properly. The rule should touch everyone, whether from an important family or not."

²¹ The king liked the plan, as did the other men, and he did just what Memucan said. ²² He sent written orders to all the king's provinces. Each province received it written in its own alphabet and each people received it in its own language. It said that each husband should rule over his own house.

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

P: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"A Powerful Legacy"

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision 451

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

(Prayer: unison)

Help us to trust in you O Lord,
To hold fast to your teaching and guidance.
Grant us the Wisdom to be true disciples in a world full of options,
Help us to be more fully your disciples in all aspects of our lives.
May we live generously. Amen.

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

God be with you till we Meet Again 672 v 2
God be with you till we meet again; neath his wings securely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.