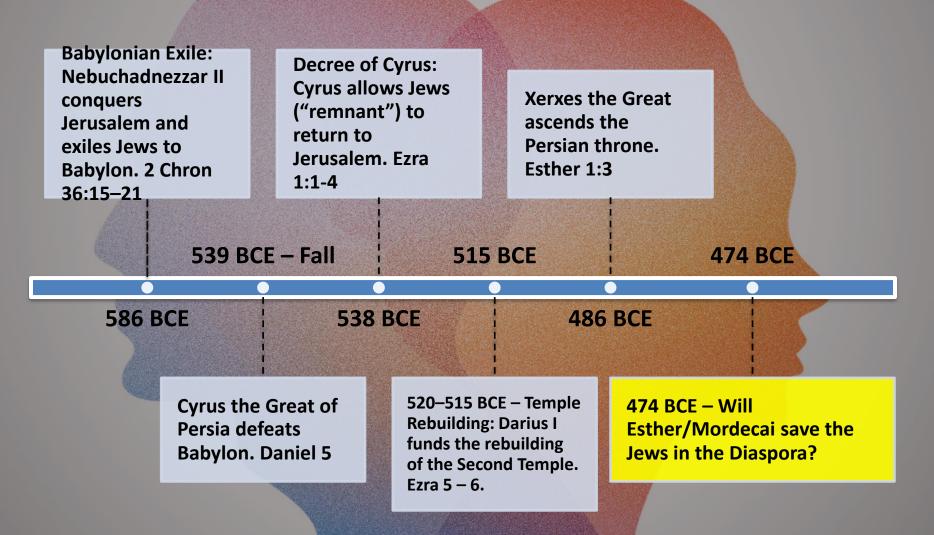


Allowing Crises to Bring Revival

Esther 3 & 4



## Chronological Historical Timeline

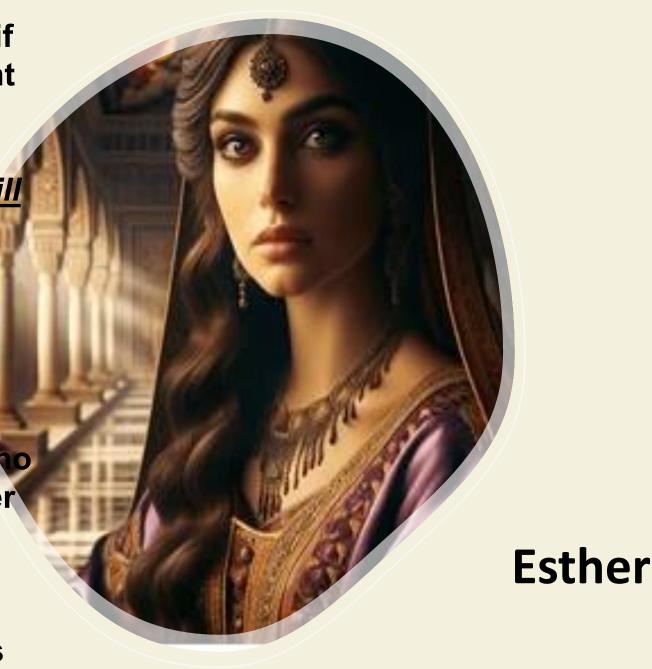




Xerxes the Great (485-465 BC) "Toxic Masculinity"



**Est. 4:14 For if** you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (ESV)



- 1. Mordecai had a life purpose outside of himself that purpose impacted his life choices and revealed his devotion to his God.
- A. Mordecai bows only to God. V 3:2-6; v4; 3:8
  - 2 Kings 17:35-36, Ex 20
  - Daniel. Daniel 1, 3, 6.
  - Jesus. Matt 4:10
- B. Can you think of a time when your obedience to Jesus was more important to you than anything else in your life?
  - 4:14, "For if you keep silent at such a time as this..."

- 2. Esther's life purpose was similarly outside herself in suffering for God, if called to do so. Father and daughter function as a family unit committed to God.
  - A. Mordecai connected the dots Esther is in the palace for this specific divine purpose.
    - 4:1-2 Palace gate. He believed in his daughter
  - B. Mordecai enlists Esther for the divine purpose.
    - 4:10-11. At the peril of her life.
    - Why? Because he believed in God and Esther.
  - C. Together, the Jews are enlisted to fast for divine intervention.
    - 4:16-17.

- 3. Why did Esther & Mordecai fast? Why ask the people to fast (and pray) if it made no spiritual difference for Esther? V 3:16.
- A. Outward demonstration of humility before God and dependence upon God. Ps 35:13, 2 Chron 7:14
- B. A heartfelt appeal for divine intervention. An outward expression of one's devotion to the will, person, and purposes of God. Helps me to focus spiritually.
  - Jonah 3:5f. Ninevites fasted to demonstrate true repentance
  - Joel 2:12f. God commands national repentance evidenced by fasting.
  - Daniel 9:3, 20f. Daniel fasted for revelation & Gabriel was sent.
  - Acts 13:2-3. Church fasted before sending out missionaries.
- C. Jesus presumed we would fast. Matt 6:16-18

- 4. Is it possible that God has put you where you are so that you will be his instrument of helps to the people around you or the people he is planning in your future?
- Est. 4:14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (ESV)
- Have you surrendered your life, fully, to the purposes of God?

## Call to Action.

- A. Memorize Esther 4:14. As you do, allow the passage to be a question the Holy Spirit asks you in your life.
- B. Have you come to a place in your life where you would say that God is the reason why you do the things that you do and make the choices that you do? If you have not done that yet, why not make today the day to choose God's purposes for your life?
- C. Research what the Bible says about fasting. Ask God if it's time for you to implement this as one of your own spiritual disciplines.



Mordecai (Esther's "adoptive father")

- 3. Why did Esther & Mordecai fast? Why lead the people to fast? Does fasting manipulate God to do what we want? What is its purpose?
- A. Fasting (prayer is always present even if not mentioned):
  - Desperate appeal for divine intervention.

## B. Expresses:

- Grief over a death
- Repentance and sorrow for sin
- Preparation/petition for a major step in one's life.
- Commitment of one's life to a divine purpose.