

Esther  
*Gail Arterburn –2021*

Monday, 9:30 – 11:00 am  
To be discussed –05/17/21

Lesson 3  
Esther 3:1-4:17

1. Read Esther 3:1-6. What precipitated a potentially deadly crisis for the Jews? In light of the first two chapters, did you find Mordecai's actions surprising? Why?
2. Read Esther 3:7-15. List everything that contributed to Haman's plan being carried out. How would you describe the character of Haman and of Xerxes?
3. Read Job 20:4-8 and 42:2. Obviously God was not surprised by this evil turn of events. How can this encourage you as you encounter evil or unexpected events in your own life?
4. If carried out successfully, what would have been the effect of Haman's plot on the exiled Jews in Persia? On God's promises to Israel? Even the salvation of the world?
5. Read Esther 4:1-5. What was Mordecai's immediate response? Why? Esther's? Why?
6. Read Esther 4:6-17. What did Mordecai ask Esther to do? (v. 8) Why was she hesitant to obey? (vv. 10-11)
7. How did Mordecai respond to her? (vv. 12-14) What was Esther's two-fold reply? Why? (vv. 15-17) Do you think Esther was being fatalistic or faithful?
8. Think about your own life. In what place has God put you "for such a time as this?"
9. What if Esther had refused to help? Would it really have been the end of the Jews and God's promises to Israel and His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ?