

THEME: THE SIGNATURE OF YOU

LIVE YOUR SIGNATURE PURPOSE

ESTHER 2:19-4:17

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“How do I live out my signature purpose?”

Esther 2:19 Now when the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate. **20 Esther had not made known her kindred or her people**, as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him. **21** In those days, as Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. **22** And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai. **23** When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. **And it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.**

I. TRUST GOD TO ORCHESTRATE EVENTS NOW FOR YOUR GOOD THEN.

Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God **all** things work together for good, for those who are **called according to his purpose.**

Chapter 3

3:1 After these things **King** Ahasuerus **promoted Haman** the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and advanced him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him. **2** And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But **Mordecai did not bow down** or pay homage. **3** Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, “**Why do you transgress the king's command?**” **4** And when they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's words would stand, for he had told them that **he was a Jew.**

5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury. **6** But **he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone.** So, as **they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.**

Haman was a vengeful coward. He wouldn't confront Mordecai one on one, instead, he decided to attempt to alienate all of Mordecai's people, the Jews.

7 In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, they cast lots) before Haman day after day; and they cast it month after month till the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. **8** Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is **a certain people scattered abroad** and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. **9** **If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king's business,** that they may put it into the king's treasuries." **10** So the **king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman** the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, **the enemy of the Jews.** **11** And the king said to Haman, "**The money is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you.**"

12 Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded, was written to the king's satraps and to the governors over all the provinces and to the officials of all the peoples, to every province in its own script and every people in its own language. It was **written** in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's provinces with instruction **to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day,** the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. **14** A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province by proclamation to all the peoples to be ready for that day. **15** The couriers went out hurriedly by order of the king, and the decree was issued in Susa the citadel. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the **city of Susa was thrown into confusion.**

II. EXPECT THE ENEMY TO COUNTER-ATTACK YOUR GOOD PURPOSE.

John 10:10a The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

Chapter 4:

4:1 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. **2** He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. **3** And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

4 When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her, **the queen was deeply distressed.** She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. **5** Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was. **6** Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the

king's gate, 7 and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews.

8 Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to **go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people**. **9** And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said.

10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, **11** "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to **be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live**. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."

12 And they told Mordecai what Esther had said.

13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. **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?"**

15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, **16** "**Go, gather all the Jews** to be found in Susa, and **hold a fast on my behalf**, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then **I will go** to the king, though it is against the law, and **if I perish, I perish.**"

17 Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

III. TAKE RISKS TO FULFILL YOUR PURPOSE.

Matthew 10:34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35** For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. **36** And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. **37** Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worth of me. **38** And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. **39** **Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**