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The Marvelous Providence of God!

by Bill Lockwood

One of the most inspiring passages in Holy Writ is Esther 4:13-14. They are the words of Mordecai to Esther the Jewish queen on the throne of Persia. "Think not with yourself that you shall escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. For if you altogether hold your peace at this time, then will relief and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house shall perish: *and who knows whether you are not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*"

Haman, the prime minister of Persia, had plotted the extermination of the Jews. For this project he had the imprimatur of the king of Persia, Xerxes, who happened to be Esther's husband. Esther herself had been selected queen of the land, although it was not known that she was a Jew. When Mordecai, Esther's cousin and one who had cared for her as a young girl in this land of captivity, discovered Haman's plot, he sent a note to Esther through court messengers. Mordecai encouraged her to speak to her husband, the king, to forestall the nefarious plot. Esther hesitated, knowing that an unbidden visit to the king might mean her death. Mordecai then sends this message to her in chapter 4:13-14. "*Who knows whether you are come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*" There are three signal points that Mordecai makes. Note them:

(1) He appealed to Esther's self-preservation. "*Think not with yourself that you shall escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.*" Perhaps Esther supposed that she alone would escape the great planned Holocaust of the Jews. Mordecai underscored that this would be a serious miscalculation. She, too, would finally be exterminated.

(2) Mordecai showed that he did not believe God would allow the extermination of the Jews. "*For if you altogether hold your peace [be silent] at this time, then will relief and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place.*" God's providential care over His people would continue, whether or not Esther would embolden herself to assist. God's plan will not be thwarted or hindered by the failure of one or more individuals. The only question is: Will you take up your role? How appropriate in today's anti-Christian culture in which states and churches are being forced to succumb to an anti-Christian agenda from Washington, D.C.! What positive role will *you* play? God will preserve His church.

(3) Mordecai suggested that Esther's current station in life was pre-planned for this moment. "*And who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such an hour as this?*" What a grand thought! All of us have come to particular stations in life, sometimes very difficult situations, *perhaps* for nothing less than to step forward for God in the hour of trial. Your decision, like Esther's may have far-reaching consequences—for personal integrity; for family unity; for country; for the faith of Jesus Christ. It is also a startling fact that *no other world view—not atheism, pantheism, humanism or evolutionary theorizing—even begins to infuse life with such great potential.*

Mordecai reveals that not only does he believe in God, and God's guidance of individual lives, but in God's ordering of the world's political events, irrespective of whether those who seem to have the power acknowledge Him! Many pagan and lawless kings have merely played a part in God's grand scheme. This is the constant message of the Old Testament prophets (Isaiah 10:8ff; 45:1; Jeremiah 1:15; Ezekiel 7:24; et al). It is the constant theme, even of current history. May God be praised!