

ESTHER: YOU WERE MADE FOR THIS MOMENT
3: WHEN YOU THINK ALL IS LOST—IT'S NOT—ESTHER 5 AND 6
JIM HINTON



I. ESTHER IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Romans 8:28 (NLT)

Life is not a straight line leading from one blessing to the next and then finally to heaven. Life is a winding and troubled road. Switchback after switchback. And the point of biblical stories like Joseph and Job and Esther and Ruth is to help us feel in our bones (not just know in our heads) that God is for us in all these strange turns. God is not just showing up after the trouble and cleaning it up. He is plotting the course and managing the troubles with far-reaching purposes for our good and for the glory of Jesus Christ.

John Piper

II. AN OVERVIEW OF ESTHER CHAPTERS 5 AND 6

1. God's sovereignty (5:1-2)

You can make many plans, but the LORD's purpose will prevail.

Proverbs 19:21 (NLT)

2. Esther's request (v.3-8)

3. Haman's pride (v.9-13)

4. Zereth's plan (v.14)

5. King Xerxes' insomnia (6:1-3)

6. Mordecai's reward (v.4-11)

7. Haman's humiliation (v.12)

8. Zereth's prediction (v.13)

The LORD had said to Abram...I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.

Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT)

9. Haman's destiny (v.14)

III. "TAKE AWAYS" FROM ESTHER CHAPTERS 5 AND 6

When God is involved...

1. Things are not always as they seem

You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

Genesis 50:20 (NLT)

2. When it looks like all is lost—it's not

Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! Fear the LORD, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the LORD will lack no good thing.

Psalms 34:8-10 (NLT)

3. When I am tempted to give up—be patient as God unfolds His Plan

Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

Hebrews 10:36 (NLT)