

Esther - Heart Under Fire!

It is interesting how God uses adversity to test hearts, honor His name, and build strength into His children.

- Esther is God's woman for God's time. (4:14)
- She is a creature of her culture. There are many things women can control/there are many things they cannot.
- There are always bigger things occurring than any one life or group of people's lives.

Hitler was not the first (or the last) to hate and persecute God's chosen people (Zechariah 2:8).

What makes a woman of substance? 1 Peter 3:1-6

- humble influence upon men (1) without a word
- interior moral example (2) that "puts evil to flight"
- gentle and internal tranquility (3-4) fear not!
- engaging a fearless commitment to what is right (6) child of faith!

Adversity's purpose

Deuteronomy 8:2

Proverbs 17:17

Testing from the Lord

James 1:3

1 Peter 4:12

2 Corinthians 13:5

Discipline of the Lord

Proverbs 3:11

Hebrews 12:3-11

1 Corinthians 9:27

2 Timothy 1:7

Revelation 3:19-20

ESTHER	God Delivers
DANGER TO THE JEWS 3:1-15	DELIVERANCE OF THE JEWS
The plot is set...2:21-23 The plot is formed...3:5,6	The plot is frustrated...6:1-3 The plot is dissolved...7:8-10
1 - 3	4 - 10

"Relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews..." 4:14

The stories in the Bible most times feature a male figure. But if we search with open eyes we readily see that women of influence are completely woven into the God Story. Rather than searching for prominent women by today's standards, it is best we observe the women in the Story who wielded power for good. Taken together God's women are the tapestry or "color" in history. Not to mention the fact that by and large it is women who "rock the cradle" and set into motion the life of every male who has ever lived - or ever will! Even Jesus' mother embraced her mom role of nurturer, observer, treasurer (Luke 2:51).

Esther's story is yet another time in history where women are exploited for what they could bring to a man. But like all of God's chosen women, she makes the choice to risk everything for what is right. And her loving uncle covers her and guides her into unimaginable success. While her chosen risk was great, her actions spared uncounted numbers of lives, and earned her a place in the handbook for what is good.

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" - Esther 4.14

Burnadette and I feel compelled to ask the question: "do we have the courage to follow God in the face of great risk of personal loss?"