

June 30, 2008

Dear Friends:

Esther was a Jew living among the Jewish exiles in the land of Persia (interestingly enough, now known as Iran). In the providence of God, she became the queen of Persia, and the king did not even know that she was a Jew.

Haman the Agagite launched a plot to destroy all the Jews. Esther's cousin, Mordecai, sent word to her to make an appeal to the king for the Jews to be saved. She protested that to do so would place her at great risk of losing her life. But Mordecai replied famously:

"Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. 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?"**

Esther 4:13-14 (ESV, emphasis added)

"For such a time as this." What a wonderful expression of confidence in the providence of God! Sometimes we do not know why we are where we are. Sometimes it is hard to understand what is going on around us or even within us.

But then sometimes there comes a moment of great challenge during which it is given to us to see clearly not only the content of the faith but also the demands of the gospel. Then the wonderful providence of God is revealed and we are made brave to act.

"Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Grace and Peace,

Dr. James C. Goodloe IV, *Executive Director*

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