

HIS SILENCE IS NOT ABSENCE

Israel: The home of God's people. They were deported from their home to Babylonian captivity decades before the events in the book of Esther.

Persia: The Persians defeated the Babylonians. Cyrus, the then king of Persia, allows Jews to return home. Some stay and live in Persia, where the story of Esther unfolds.

Ahasuerus (Xerxes): King of Persia and an insatiable and ruthless leader.

Vashti: King Ahasuerus' wife who refused to wear her crown to show off her beauty to her husband's guests.

Esther: A beautiful young Jewish woman living in Persia. Though her Jewish name was Hadassah, she was called Esther in Persia.

Mordecai: Esther's cousin who took care of her as her legal guardian.

Haman: High ranking political adviser to King Ashaserus (Xerxes) who also hated the Jews.

Purim: A Jewish holiday that celebrates the saving of God's people through ordinary events.

Passover: A Jewish festival that celebrates the saving of God's people through extraordinary events.

Mordecai told the messenger to reply to Esther, "Don't think that you will escape the fate of all the Jews because you are in the king's palace. If you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will come to the Jewish people from another place, but you and your father's family will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this." Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go and assemble all the Jews who can be found in Susa and fast for me. Don't eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my female servants will also fast in the same way. After that, I will go to the king even if it is against the law. If I perish, I perish." So Mordecai went and did everything Esther had commanded him. Esther 4:13-17

1. His silence is not absence.
2. His silence is not indifference.
3. He works in both the extraordinary and the ordinary.

Reflection Question:

Looking back, where have you experienced God's faithfulness even when he seemed silent?

Scripture from the CSB unless noted.