

# Victory Hour

by Wanda Bolton-Davis

## THE STORY OF ESTHER

*You Are Here... For Such a Time as This!*



March 5, 2008

### *Introduction*

Have you ever found yourself in a place where you've asked the question, "Why am I here?" "What is my purpose?" "Am I making a difference?" The story of Esther shows us how God is at work behind the scenes even when circumstances don't appear to be in our favor.

The book of Esther is a powerful drama. In it you find action, suspense, sudden reversals and more. There are four main characters that take you on a journey and display the sovereign hand of God. We learn that divine guidance overrules all things. Esther, unlike other Old Testament books, does not include God's name. There is no prayer for help in the time of need. There is no thanksgiving or praise at the time of deliverance. However, God's presence is felt throughout the whole story. The book of Esther brings deeper meaning to Romans 8:28. You can know that wherever God has placed you, He has a perfect plan and purpose that shall be accomplished through His providential will. You must not take lightly your plight in life nor the reason for your existence in this season. For wherever God has placed you, you have been raised up for such a time as this."

### *Outline*

#### **1. The Feast of Ahasuerus (King Xerxes) (1:1-2:18)**

- a. Vashti dethroned (1)
- b. Esther made queen (2:1-18)

#### **2. Mordecai Uncovers a Plot (2:19-23)**

- a. Haman's Plot (3)
- b. Mordecai Persuades Esther to Help (4)
- c. Esther call for a fast
- d. Esther's Request to the King: The First Banquet (5:1-8)

#### **3. The King's Sleepless Night (5:9-6:14)**

- a. Haman is humiliated
- b. Esther's second banquet / the plot is disclosed
- c. Haman is hanged
- d. Mordecai is promoted
- e. The decree is revoked

### *Setting*

*Period:* 559-330 B.C.

*Place:* Susa – One of the capital cities of a vast empire stretching between what is today India and Ethiopia. Not too far from Iraq.

### *Principles*

*Favor:* God's Favor will put you in places that won't make sense

*Fear:* When fearful, fast. Fasting touches the heart of God

*Family:* Your very existence is not about you.

*Future:* The decisions you make today will impact you and generations to come

*Faith:* It always pays off

