

TAKE COURAGE!



ESTHER 1-7

2 CHRONICLES 15:7 (ESV)

7 But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.




THE STORY

Esther Chapters 1-7



THE SETTING

The palace, in Shushan/Susa,
capital of the first Persian empire
formed by Cyrus the Great,
long after the captive Hebrews are
allowed to return to their homeland.



THE CHARACTERS

- **Xerxes, the reigning king**
- **Vashti, the stunning queen**
- **Haman, the story's antagonist**
- **Mordecai - Jewish DP # 1**
- **Esther - Jewish DP # 2**

THE PLOT

- **Xerxes' royal extravaganza**
- **Vashti's refusal**
- **Xerxes' revenge**
- **Search for a new queen**
- **Esther Chosen**


THE CRISIS

- **Mordecai standing firm**
- **Haman hating Mordecai**
- **Haman setting a trap**
- **Who has the ear of the king?!?**

THE MODEL OF COURAGE



THE REAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- **No guarantees of her position**
 - **Key indicators were against her**
 - **Her potential consequences were extreme**
 - **Her success was life or death**
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- A silhouette of a woman in a long dress stands in the center of a row of arches, looking towards the right. The arches are dark and recede into the background, creating a sense of depth.

THE CHALLENGE TO TAKE COURAGE



Mordecai:

¹⁴ “...who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

ESTHER 4:14B



Esther:

16 “...and if I perish, I perish.”

ESTHER 4:16

A silhouette of a woman in a long, flowing dress stands in the center of a row of arches. The arches are illuminated from behind, creating a warm, golden glow. The woman's hair is blowing in the wind, and she appears to be looking towards the right. The overall scene is set against a dark background, emphasizing the light from the arches.

**OUR CALL TO TAKE
COURAGE TODAY...**



CONSIDER MORDECAI'S CHALLENGE:

**This could be your moment,
your reason for being**



YOUR ESTHER MOMENT MAY CALL YOU TO

- **Seize the opportunity**
 - **Take a chance**
 - **Risk it**
 - **Go for it**
 - **Step up**
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- A silhouette of a woman in a long, flowing dress stands in the center of a row of arches. The arches are dark, and the woman is illuminated from behind, creating a strong contrast. The background is dark, and the overall mood is dramatic and contemplative.

YOUR ESTHER MOMENT MAY CALL YOU TO

- **Make the call, the decision**
- **Follow your heart - even to say no**
- **Do the right thing**
- **Do the courageous thing**
- **Do the godly thing**

**THE TEMPTATION OF
OUR ESTHER MOMENT MAY BE TO**




THE TEMPTATION OF OUR ESTHER MOMENT MAY BE TO

- **Minimize our own capacity:**
 - **I'm not able**
 - **I'm not smart enough**
 - **I'm not trained enough**
 - **I'm not good enough**

THE TEMPTATION OF OUR ESTHER MOMENT MAY BE TO

- **Think only of ourselves:**
 - **Wait for something bigger, better, even more public**
 - **Choose not to engage, to stay secure**

TAKING COURAGE TO...

- **Say no - bullying, abuse**
 - **Abandon dishonesty, unfairness**
 - **To end the decision you're making,
the path you are walking**
 - **Face change**
 - **Just say yes**
 - **Take courage to stay the course!**
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- A silhouette of a woman in a long dress standing in the center of a row of arches. The arches are dark and recede into the background, creating a sense of depth. The woman is positioned in the middle of the row, looking towards the right.

PSALM 31:24 (ESV)

**24 Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the LORD!**



