Crossroads International Church Singapore Dr. Rick Griffith

Title

29 April 2018 Message 17 of 66

NLT 60 Minutes

**Be Committed**

***Book of Esther***

**Topic:** Commitment

**Subject:** Why should we be committed to God?

**Complement:** Despite Satan’s threats, God will triumph.

**Purpose:** The listeners will commit themselves to God in their strategic place of ministry.

**Attribute:** We worship the God of Providence

**Reading:** Esther 4:10-14

**Songs:** By Faith (Getty), Take My Life and Let It Be, Facing the Task Unfinished

# Introduction

### Interest: The church typically has a serious lack of commitment. Why is that so?

Committed

### Need: How committed are you to God’s work? If you were accused of being devoted to Jesus, would there be enough evidence to convict you in a court of law?

Man

### Subject: Why should you be committed to God?

Subject

### Background: A half-century after the Jews returned from exile to the land of Israel, only a fraction (50,000) had gone back while most remained abroad in lethargy instead of real commitment.

Backgrd

(13 slides)

#### Why didn’t they return? What would happen to them? How would God shake them out of their lethargy?

#### The Jews needed to renew their commitment to God based on his commitment to them over the ages. Yet they also needed to see God working in their lives right then as they lived outside the land of Israel.

### Text: The entire book of Esther shows us two reasons they (and we) need to commit to the LORD.

### Preview: Today we will see *two reasons* to commit ourselves to God.

2 Reasons

MPI

(What is the *first reason* you should we be committed to God?)

# I. God’s work faces threats (Esther 1–4).

[God commands our wholehearted devotion as we face many obstacles while God fulfills his plan.]

## Threat: God strategically placed Mordecai and Esther to thwart Haman's plot to exterminate the Jews to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant (Esther 1–4).

Map

Xerxes

Outlines

(2 slides)

Esther 1

### Esther replaced the deposed Queen Vashti as God's intervention to save his people from annihilation as a nation (1:1–2:18).

#### Xerxes (Heb. *Ahasuerus* in the book) divorced his disobedient Queen Vashti, unaware of God’s plan for Esther to replace Vashti to preserve the Jews (Esther 1; 483 BC; 1:3).

Vashti

#### Xerxes married Esther to replace Vashti after a divinely designed beauty contest where God controlled Xerxes' taste in women to avert a disaster for the Jews (2:1-18; 479 BC).

Esther 2

(7 slides)

### Haman’s plot to kill the Jews came just after Mordecai foiled a plot to murder the king to show God protecting Jews via Esther to uphold the Abrahamic Covenant (2:19–4:17).

Kings’ Men

#### God informed Mordecai of a secret assassination plot that saved Xerxes' life as God’s design to later exalt Mordecai to benefit his people (2:19-23).

Mordecai Eavesdrop

#### Haman’s anger at Mordecai refusing to honor him convinced Xerxes to kill all Jews from Egypt to India eleven months later for God protect them instead (Esther 3).

#### Mordecai convinced Esther to risk her life for the Jews by showing that God crowned her for this role even if she failed since he would still uphold the Abrahamic Covenant (Esther 4).

Esther 4

(2 slides)

Esther 3

(3 slides)

## We are secure in our relationship with God—but that doesn’t mean there are no attacks!

APP

(3 slides)

### We are at war. The sad reality is that many of us do not realize it—so we are not committed to God as a result.

War

Crossroads

### Each of us is at a crossroads—thus our church is Crossroads International Church.

#### Like the Jews in the story of Esther, right now we are attacked at home, at work, and a number of other arenas.

#### We are challenges whether we will take God’s road at the crossroads. Too often our problem is not that we don’t know which road is God’s road. Our issue is having the courage and commitment to do it.

#### Why should we be committed to God?

MPI

• MPII

(What is the *second reason* you should we be committed to God?)

# II. God’s work will triumph (Esther 5–10).

[It’s easier to be committed to God’s plan when we know that it will ultimately succeed.]

Outline

## Triumph: God reverted Haman's massacre plot on his own head via Mordecai and Esther to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant (Esther 5–10).

Esther 5

(3 slides)

### Mordecai overcame Haman as proof of God's faithfulness when we fear him (5:1–8:2).

#### The king enthusiastically and curiously accepted Esther's boldness, yet Esther only invited him to a banquet to put him in the proper mood to grant her request (5:1-8).

Food

#### Haman arrogantly plotted to murder Mordecai on a 75-foot gallows as God's provision for his own death to protect the Jews (5:9-14).

Refusal

(2 slides)

#### Haman honored Mordecai and returned home humiliated (Esther 6).

#### Haman died on the gallows prepared for Mordecai as evidence that God protects those who fear him and punishes those who oppose him and his people (Esther 7).

Esther 7

(6 slides)

Esther 8

(2 slides)

#### Mordecai was elevated to Haman's position and appointed over Haman's estate to show that those who plot evil will only prosper the righteous (8:1-2).

Esther 6

(3 slides)

### Israel triumphed over its enemies and began to annually celebrate the Feast of Purim as evidence of God's faithfulness to the Abrahamic Covenant (8:3–9:32).

Esther 9

(6 slides)

#### God delivered the Jews in a massive slaughter of their enemies authorized by a counter-decree for their self-defense to show God upholding the Abrahamic Covenant (8:3–9:16).

##### Xerxes allowed Esther and Mordecai’s counter-decree for Jews to defend themselves and God caused many Gentiles to become proselytes (8:3-17).

##### The Jews slaughtered at least 75,810 enemies in two days with help from royal officials to show God's faithfulness to the Abrahamic Covenant (9:1-16; Feb-Mar 473 BC).

#### Mordecai and Esther authorized the Feast of Purim (plural for *pur*, the lot thrown by Haman) to annually celebrate God’s victory over the enemies of the Jews (9:17-32).

### The LORD exalted Mordecai to second only to Xerxes due to his selfless concern for the Jews, which shows God's blessing on those who seek the welfare of others (Esther 10).

Esther 10

## We also have a future victory because God’s plan will not be thwarted.

Our Victory

(2 slides)

### The key verse reminds us that, even if we have poor judgment and are not committed to God’s plan, “relief for the Jews will arise from another place” (Esther 4:14).

4:14

### It is the same with us! You cannot thwart God’s sovereign plan! He is the king and will accomplish it with or without you. The real question is whether you will move with him.

Shepherd

### The theme of the whole Bible is for man to rule with God.

Chiasm

(Animated)

#### Creation in Genesis 1–2 is repeated In the Restored, New Creation in Rev 21–22

#### Man was created to rule over the fish, birds, and land animals (Gen. 1:28) but he gave over his rule over to the god of this world, Satan (2 Cor. 4:4)

#### However, this rule is restored during the 1000-year reign of the saints (Rev. 20:4-6)

#### But Christ is the central Person of history: both as Lamb (Redeemer) and as Lion (Ruler of all creation in the line of David)

Rev 20

(Animated)

### Revelation 20:4-6 tells us that plan his plan is for us to rule for 1000 years with him.

Subj

(Why should you be committed to God?)

# Conclusion

### Main Points

• MPII

MPI

#### God’s work faces threats (Esther 1–4), but…

#### God’s work will triumph (Esther 5–10).

### Despite Satan’s threats, God will triumph (Main Idea).

• MI

### Exhortation

What to Do?

#### Where are you feeling crushed as if on the losing team? Plans at work, home, your future, your whatever…

#### You are not on the losing team! Be committed to God because you are actually on the winning side!

#### Use your providentially placed position to help God's people. How? What advantages do you have that others do not? Language? Relationships? Money?

• Use your position

#### Just as one can visit Esther’s tomb in Iran today, who knows but that your courage could long be remembered in God’s service.

Esther’s Tomb

Prayer

### Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

# Questions

# Tentative Main Ideas

Text

# Illustrations That Apply

### Text

# Old Testament Survey Notes

**Esther**

**Introduction**

**I. Title** Esther (rTes]a, *‘ester)* is a Persian name derived from the Persian word for "star" (*stara*; BDB 64d). The meaning is fitting since Esther is the star of this book that bears her name. Her Hebrew name, Hadassah, means "myrtle(-tree)" (hS;dæh} BDB 213c; cf. 2:7).

**II. Authorship**

A. External Evidence: The Jewish discussions regarding Esther have concerned several other issues more than authorship, which remains anonymous (see "Characteristics" section). Therefore, parallel passages and opinions of the Church and Synagogue concerning authorship have not been significant.

B. Internal Evidence: Since the book gives no hint who wrote it one can only guess his identity. The account shows such detail of Persian and Jewish life that it is difficult to suppose an author who was not Jewish and well acquainted with Persian ways. Some suggest Ezra or Nehemiah as author, but the vocabulary and style of Esther does not match either of these two books. Others maintain that Mordecai penned the work, but chapter 10 implies that his career had already ended (*TTTB*, 131), unless, of course, this chapter was added later. Therefore, no one really knows who wrote the book.

**III. Circumstances**

A. Date: While critical scholars have claimed that Esther was written much later than the time of its contents (because of its language and style), their arguments are unconvincing. Since the events of the book close at 473 BC it is reasonable to presume a date shortly after this–perhaps after Xerxes' reign (ending in 464 BC) but no later than 435 BC when the palace at Susa was destroyed by fire, a significant event not mentioned in Esther.

B. Recipients: Esther's first readers constituted the postexilic communities during the time of Nehemiah and Malachi and the intertestamental period–probably initially in Persia but soon in Israel as the book was copied and distributed. These providential dealings of God on their behalf would have been a tremendous source of encouragement to both Jews in Persia as well as Jews living in Israel.

C. Occasion: The events of Esther chronicle 10 years of the 58 year gap between Ezra 6 (516 BC) and Ezra 7 (458 BC). The story takes place from 483 to 473 BC between the time of the first return under Zerubbabel (538 BC) and the second under Ezra (458 BC). Without Esther the Scripture would remain silent as to the state of the majority of post-exilic Jews who chose to remain in Babylon when a small remnant of their brothers returned to the land. Why did they remain? They were prospering materially and therefore saw nothing but hard work by returning to Jerusalem, a city that lacked even walls (cf. Book of Nehemiah). The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah assert God's providential care over the small remnant that returned, while Esther reveals that God even graciously cared for these spiritually indifferent Jews whose priorities needed rearranging.

**IV. Characteristics**

A. Historicity: Esther contains much in the way of eyewitness accounts about the Persian Empire, of which little has been verified from outside sources. Ahasuerus has recently been identified with Xerxes who reigned over Persia from 485-465 BC.

B. Canonicity: The usefulness of Esther has long been debated. Maimonides taught that when the Messiah comes, every book of the Jewish Scriptures would pass away but the Law and Esther, which would remain forever. However, Martin Luther wished the book had never been written because of its many problems (Donald K. Campbell, “Esther,” DTS Class Notes, 1984, 1).

The reasons for differing opinions on the book stem from many unique characteristics:

1. The name of God is never mentioned in the book (although his hand is very evident).

2. Esther is never quoted in the New Testament nor found among the Dead Sea Scrolls.

3. It never mentions the Law or Jewish sacrifices or offerings.

4. It never refers to prayer (although fasting is mentioned).

5. The book contains no mention at all of anything spiritual.

6. Its unique literary type (i.e., almost a drama) has caused it to be placed within several different sections in various collections of Old Testament books.

C. Placement: Esther is the only biblical book with a history of the Jews outside of the land during the times of the Gentiles (586 BC until the return of Christ). This may explain why it appears as the last historical book in English Bibles, for while it precedes Nehemiah chronologically, the same conditions in the book continue during the time of the Gentiles until the deliverance of the Jews at the return of Christ (Campbell, 2).

D. Lessons: The Book of Esther teaches several principles such as (Campbell, 2):

1. Satan's purpose is to destroy the Jews by use of the nations.

2. God's purpose is to preserve the Jews by use of the nations.

3. God works in the affairs of nations to accomplish his will to preserve his people.

4. God works in the affairs of individuals to accomplish his will to preserve his people.

E. Interpretation: At least four different hermeneutical methods have been employed in seeking to understand the message of Esther:

1. ***Prophetical***–Esther predicts that the Jews will be preserved while outside of the land during the times of the Gentiles.

Response: Nothing is mentioned of the “times of the Gentiles” and the account is presented in a straightforward manner as history.

2. ***Allegorical***–Esther is the story of mankind.

Response: This is ambiguous and the account is presented in a straightforward manner as historical.

3. ***Typical***–Esther is God’s illustration of the Christian experience in the Church Age or a type of the Millennium. "Some suggest a typical application as follows. The replacing of Vashti (a Gentile) by Esther (a Jew) typifies the setting aside of Christendom and the taking up of Israel. Haaman, the enemy of the Jews, typifies the anti-Christ to be destroyed at the second coming. The numerical value of the Hebrew letters of Haaman the wicked is 666. Mordecai is a type of Jesus Christ in his glorious exaltation. The triumph of the Jews is typical of the millennium" (Campbell, 2).

Response: While this is an ingenious view, it fails in that it reads the NT back into the OT (which means that its original readers would not have understood the meaning). Also, the spelling of “Haman” must be altered to fit this numerical scenario!

4. ***Historical***–Esther records God's providential care of his chosen people as evidence of his commitment to the Abrahamic Covenant. The following "Argument" section will demonstrate this to be the best option.

**Argument**

Esther records a historical story of how a plot to exterminate the entire Jewish population is averted by God's providential workings through the godly Jewess, Queen Esther. The account cites the threat to the Jews (Esther 1–4) and the triumph of the Jews over those who threatened their existence (Esther 5–10). Chapter 9 celebrates the preservation of the nation in the Feast of Purim–an annual reminder of God's faithfulness on their behalf.

**Synthesis**

**Extermination plot foiled**

**1–4 Plot planned—threat**

1:1–2:18 Esther exalted

1 Vashti divorced

2:1-18 Esther married

2:19–4:17 Haman plots

2:19-23 Mordecai: plot to murder the king

3 Haman: plot to murder the Jews

4 Esther challenged

**5–10 Plot foiled—triumph**

5:1–8:2 Mordecai over Haman

5:1-8 Invitation offered

5:9-14 Gallows built

6 Mordecai honored

7 Haman hanged

8:1-2 Mordecai promoted

8:3–9:32 Israel over enemies

8:3–9:16 Counter-decree slaughter

9:17-32 Purim

10 Mordecai over Persia

**Outline**

**Summary Statement for the Book**

**God reverted Haman's massacre plot on his own head via Mordecai and Esther so postexilic Israel would know that he still upholds the Abrahamic Covenant.**

# Haman's plot to exterminate the Jews became known to Mordecai and Esther, whom God had strategically placed, to show God’s protection of Israel (Esther 1–4).

## Esther replaced the deposed Queen Vashti as God's intervention to save his people from annihilation as a nation (1:1–2:18).

### Xerxes (Heb. *Ahasuerus* in the book) divorced his disobedient Queen Vashti, unaware of God’s plan for Esther to replace Vashti to preserve the Jews (Esther 1; 483 BC; 1:3).

### Xerxes married Esther to replace Vashti after a divinely designed beauty contest where God controlled Xerxes' taste in women to avert a disaster for the Jews (2:1-18; 479 BC).

## Haman’s plot to kill the Jews came just after Mordecai foiled a plot to murder the king to show God protecting the Jews through Esther to uphold the Abrahamic Covenant (2:19–4:17).

### God informed Mordecai of a secret assassination plot that saved Xerxes' life as God’s design to later exalt Mordecai to benefit his people (2:19-23).

### Haman’s anger at Mordecai refusing to honor him convinced Xerxes to try to kill all Jews from Egypt to India eleven months later for God protect them instead (Esther 3).

### Mordecai convinced Esther to risk her life for the Jews by showing that God crowned her for this role even if she failed since he would still uphold the Abrahamic Covenant (Esther 4).

# God reverted Haman's massacre plot on his own head via Mordecai and Esther so postexilic Israel would know that he still upholds the Abrahamic Covenant (Esther 5–10).

## Mordecai triumphed over Haman as evidence of God's faithfulness to those who fear him (5:1–8:2).

### The king enthusiastically and curiously accepted Esther's boldness, yet Esther only invited him to a banquet to put him in the proper mood to grant her request (5:1-8).

### Haman arrogantly plotted to murder Mordecai on a 75-foot gallows as God's provision for his own death to protect the Jews (5:9-14).

### Haman honored Mordecai and returned home humiliated (Esther 6).

### Haman died on the gallows prepared for Mordecai as evidence that God protects those who fear him and punishes those who oppose him and his people (Esther 7).

### Mordecai was elevated to Haman's position and appointed over Haman's estate to show that those who plot evil will only prosper the righteous (8:1-2).

## Israel triumphed over its enemies and began to annually celebrate the Feast of Purim as evidence of God's faithfulness to the Abrahamic Covenant (8:3–9:32).

### God delivered the Jews in a massive slaughter of their enemies authorized by a counter-decree for their self-defense to show God upholding the Abrahamic Covenant (8:3–9:16).

#### Xerxes commanded Esther and Mordecai to write a counter-decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves and God caused many Gentiles to become proselytes (8:3-17).

#### The Jews slaughtered at least 75,810 enemies in two days with help from royal officials to show God's faithfulness to the Abrahamic Covenant (9:1-16; Feb-Mar 473 BC).

### Mordecai and Esther authorized the Feast of Purim (plural for pur, the lot thrown by Haman) to annually celebrate God’s victory over the enemies of the Jews (9:17-32).

## The LORD exalted Mordecai to second only to Xerxes due to his selfless concern for the Jews, which shows God's blessing on those who seek the welfare of others (Esther 10).

**Be Committed**

***Esther***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: God reverted Haman's massacre plot on his own head via Mordecai and Esther so postexilic Israel would know that he still upholds the Abrahamic Covenant.

# *Exegetical Idea*: The reason postexilic Israel should be committed to God is because he reverted Haman's massacre plot on his own head via Mordecai and Esther to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant.

# Threat: God strategically placed Mordecai and Esther to thwart Haman's plot to exterminate the Jews to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant (Esther 1–4).

## Esther replaced the deposed Queen Vashti as God's intervention to save his people from annihilation as a nation (1:1–2:18).

## Haman’s plot to kill the Jews came just after Mordecai foiled a plot to murder the king to show God protecting the Jews through Esther to uphold the Abrahamic Covenant (2:19–4:17).

# Triumph: God reverted Haman's massacre plot on his own head via Mordecai and Esther to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant (Esther 5–10).

## Mordecai triumphed over Haman as evidence of God's faithfulness to those who fear him (5:1–8:2).

## Israel triumphed over its enemies and began to annually celebrate the Feast of Purim as evidence of God's faithfulness to the Abrahamic Covenant (8:3–9:32).

## The LORD exalted Mordecai to second only to Xerxes due to his selfless concern for the Jews, which shows God's blessing on those who seek the welfare of others (Esther 10).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will commit themselves to God in their strategic place of ministry.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: The church typically has a serious lack of commitment. Why is that so?

### Need: How committed are you to God’s work?

### Subject: Why should you be committed to God?

### Background: A half-century after the Jews returned from exile to the land of Israel, only a fraction (50,000) had gone back while most remained abroad in lethargy instead of real commitment.

#### Why didn’t they return? What would happen to them? How would God shake them out of their lethargy?

#### The Jews needed to renew their commitment to God based on his commitment to them over the ages. Yet they also needed to see God working in their lives right then as they lived outside the land of Israel.

### Text: The entire book of Esther shows us two reasons they (and we) need to commit to the LORD.

### Preview: Today we will see *two reasons* to commit ourselves to God.

(What is the *first reason* you should we be committed to God?)

# I. God’s work faces threats (Esther 1–4).

## Threat: God strategically placed Mordecai and Esther to thwart Haman's plot to exterminate the Jews to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant (Esther 1–4).

### Esther replaced the deposed Queen Vashti as God's intervention to save his people from annihilation as a nation (1:1–2:18).

### Haman’s plot to kill the Jews came just after Mordecai foiled a plot to murder the king to show God protecting Jews via Esther to uphold the Abrahamic Covenant (2:19–4:17).

## We are secure in our relationship with God—but that doesn’t mean there are no attacks!

(What is the *second reason* you should we be committed to God?)

# II. God’s work will triumph (Esther 5–10).

## Triumph: God reverted Haman's massacre plot on his own head via Mordecai and Esther to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant (Esther 5–10).

### Mordecai overcame Haman as proof of God's faithfulness when we fear him (5:1–8:2).

### Israel triumphed over its enemies and began to annually celebrate the Feast of Purim as evidence of God's faithfulness to the Abrahamic Covenant (8:3–9:32).

### The LORD exalted Mordecai to second only to Xerxes due to his selfless concern for the Jews, which shows God's blessing on those who seek the welfare of others (Esther 10).

## We also have a future victory because God’s plan will not be thwarted.

(Why should you be committed to God?)

# Conclusion

### Despite Satan’s threats, God will triumph (Main Idea).

### Main Points

#### God’s work faces threats (Esther 1–4), but…

#### God’s work will triumph (Esther 5–10).

### Exhortation: Where are you feeling crushed as if you are on the losing team? You are not! Be committed to God because you are actually on the winning side!



**Rick Griffith**

29 April 2018

Message 17 of 66

**Be Committed**

***Esther***

# Introduction

### The church typically has a serious lack of commitment. Why is that so?

### Why should you be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God?

### A half-century after Jews returned from exile most remained abroad in lethargy.

# I. God’s work faces \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Esther 1–4).

## Threat: God strategically placed Mordecai and Esther to thwart Haman's plot to exterminate the Jews to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant (Esther 1–4).

### Esther replaced the deposed Queen Vashti as God's intervention to save his people from annihilation as a nation (1:1–2:18).

### Haman’s plot to kill the Jews came just after Mordecai foiled a plot to murder the king to show God protecting Jews via Esther to uphold the Abrahamic Covenant (2:19–4:17).

## We are secure in our relationship with God—but that doesn’t mean there are no attacks!

# II. God’s work will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Esther 5–10).

## Triumph: God reverted Haman's massacre plot on his own head via Mordecai and Esther to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant (Esther 5–10).

### Mordecai overcame Haman as proof of God's faithfulness when we fear him (5:1–8:2).

### Israel triumphed over its enemies and began to annually celebrate the Feast of Purim as evidence of God's faithfulness to the Abrahamic Covenant (8:3–9:32).

### The LORD exalted Mordecai to second only to Xerxes due to his selfless concern for the Jews, which shows God's blessing on those who seek the welfare of others (Esther 10).

## We also have a future victory because God’s plan will not be thwarted.

# Conclusion

### Despite Satan’s threats, God will triumph (Main Idea).

### Where are you feeling crushed as if you are on the losing team? You are not! Be committed to God because you are actually on the winning side!

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**Esther**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Extermination Plot Foiled** | | | | |
| **Plot Planned** | | **Plot Foiled** | | |
| **Chapters 1–4** | | **Chapters 5–10** | | |
| **Threat** | | **Triumph** | | |
| **Providence Prepared** | | **Providence Enacted** | | |
| **Persecution** | | **Preservation** | | |
| **Grave Danger** | | **Great Deliverance** | | |
| **Feasts of Ahasuerus** | | **Feasts of Esther and Purim** | | |
| **Esther Exalted**  **1:1–2:18** | **Haman Plots**  **2:19–4:17** | **Mordecai over**  **Haman**  **5:1–8:2** | **Jews over Enemies**  **8:3–9:32** | **Mordecai over Persia**  **10** |
| **Persia** | | | | |
| **10 Years**  **(483-473 BC)** | | | | |

**Key Word: Providence**

**Key Verse: (Mordecai to Esther) “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14).**

**Summary Statement:**

**The reason postexilic Israel should be committed to God is because he reverted Haman's massacre plot on his own head via Mordecai and Esther to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant.**

**Application:**

**Use your providentially placed position to help God’s people.**