

For Such a Time as This



*For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for **such a time as this**? Esther 4:14*

By

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Victor Hugo, 19th Century French poet, novelist, and author of the critically acclaimed novel about social injustice, *Les Misérables*, once wrote “Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come.” Inspired by the political unrest which eventually led to the French Revolution, this quote was not only profound, but also prophetic. The hand writing was on the wall. Social unrest was reaching a boiling point. The line between the haves and the have not was getting larger and larger. Misuse and abuse of the people had become common place. Oppression of any people can be tolerated only so long and when the people have had enough, **For Such a Time As This**, the people will rise up and rise up they did.

What irony! The French were inspired and embolden by what they witnessed in America. They watched as we broke away from an oppressive aristocracy. They observed a fledging nation come together for the good of the whole, against the greatest army of its time. How tragic that America has forgotten the lessons that led to our revolution. Shame on us for not remembering that by not learning from our mistakes of the past we are destined to repeat those same mistakes

again. And sure enough, here we are faced again, with the plague of social injustice and the people are now saying enough! Enough with this broken judicial system! Enough with these corrupt, selfish politicians! Enough with a White House that is totally out of touch with what really makes America great! Enough is enough! How many more deaths must we endure before we admit that we are going in the wrong direction! Enough! America stands in the balance, she has been weighed, she has been measured and she has been found wanting!

If it sounds like it's time for a change, that's because it is! America is at a critical juncture. Business as usual has ground us to a halt. It aint working anymore! The disenfranchised of this country have put an exclamation mark at the end of this sentence. No more police brutality! No more violations of our civil rights! No more politics and business for the sake of politics and business! No more discrimination of any kind! We have been pushed so far and we can't go any further. The idea of civil justice/civil rights in all of its forms, has arrived (**For Such a Time as This**) and its time has come!

The people are speaking and they are speaking very loud. Their voices echo the voices of a people who experience this same oppression in ancient times.

It was during the reign of King Xerxes ruler of 127 provinces between India and Ethiopia around 474 B.C. The Jews had been captive since the days of Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon in 586 B.C. For slaves, the idea of social justice or civil rights wasn't even a thought let alone an idea formulating in the hearts of the people. They suffered every indignity and inhumane treatment imaginable. Now, Haman, second in command to King Xerxes, has threatened genocide, the complete destruction of the Jewish race. His contempt for the Jews was so great that it blinded him from seeing that he was actually plotting his own demise. To be sure, his plan was well laid out, fixed for a certain day and time, to be carried out in every province under Xerxes control. Only one person stood between Haman and total Jewish annihilation, Esther, Xerxes' Queen, an unlikely heroin. She had not been Queen very long when she was called upon to risk her own life to save the lives of her people. She had no training in heroism. She had not been prepared for the arduous task awaiting her. She had no idea that she was even going to be called upon to stand in the

gap for her people. Her uncle, Mordecai, on the other hand, knew what the stakes were and when the time was right, approached her and convinced her that God had placed her in the position of Queen **For Such a Time as This**.

There have been junctures throughout human history when certain people were called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice for the good of all humanity and **For Such times as these**, brave men and women, boys and girls have stepped forward to answer the call.

Esther had only one problem, in order for her to intercede for her people she would have to go before the King and the King only allowed an audience before him at his invitation. There were no exceptions to this law. Not even the Queen could come before him without an invitation. Anyone who broke this law would be killed, Queen included! The fate of the entire Jewish population was in her hands and the King wasn't seeing anyone. Left with only one choice, to risk death by breaking the law, Esther responded "if I perish, I perish". In other words, if death is the price to pay for the sake of the people then death I'll pay. Esther went before the King; not only did he allow her an audience, but when she exposed

Haman's plot, the King rescinded Haman's order and had him executed.

We stand now at another juncture in humanity's history. Will we hold our peace while America's moral conscience is in jeopardy of being destroyed? Will self-preservation keep us from doing what it takes restore our integrity as a people and a nation? "Who can we send and who will go for us?" **For Such a Time as This**, who is willing to say "*If I perish I perish*".

This call is not for just one individual. No, this call is for all people, regardless of color, creed, religious persuasion, sexual orientation, or nationality. Anyone and everyone who wishes to enjoy true, unencumbered freedom and the right to become the best that you can be, this call is for you. The time for true freedom has come! There is no force greater than this idea whose time has come! **For Such a Time as This!**