



Worn-Down By Weariness in This World? Pastor Max Lucado Believes You Were Made for this Moment to Overcome Life's Difficulties

New Book Shows How the Bible Story of Esther is Essential & Relevant in 2021



Nashville, TN, (June, 2021) — Our society is reeling from social injustice, racial tension and political conflicts. Individuals feel burdened by despair, defeat, and depression. *New York Times* bestselling author and “America’s Pastor,” **Max Lucado**, delivers a timely message of hope and encouragement by examining a little-considered Jewish story of Queen Esther in the Bible. **Lucado** demonstrates how Esther is an ideal role model for modern readers who need renewed confidence in 2021 to face personal difficulties and languishing doubts.

In his all-new, never before published book, *You Were Made for This Moment: Courage for Today and Hope for Tomorrow* (Thomas Nelson, September 2021), Lucado discusses how each person is created specifically for this moment in time, to play important roles in God's story. **Lucado** - with his signature compelling and applicable stories - shows how God works powerfully in ordinary people under extraordinary stress.

“Esther was written for the emotionally weary, written for the person who feels outnumbered by foes, outmaneuvered by fate, and outdone by fear,” writes **Lucado** with this promise. “You don’t have to be undone by turbulent times; you can be unleashed. You were made for this moment.”

You Were Made for This Moment encourages readers that even when their world feels “wrapped in winter” they can find hope and inspiration by:

- Reclaiming their eternal identity as a citizen of heaven,
- Putting their hope in the God of grand reversals,
- Cultivating courage for their challenging times; and,
- Discovering their role in God’s story.

Currently serving as Teaching Pastor at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, TX, **Lucado** describes how the story of Esther is the same story of the entire Bible, even of all humanity. “The theme of the book of Esther, indeed, the theme of the Bible, is that all injustices of the world will be turned on their head. When we feel like everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the king of quiet providence ... and he invites you and me to partner in his work.”

Max Lucado embraced his own “moment” in 2020 during the pandemic lockdown by starting a daily video check-in to encourage people during an extraordinary time of stress and anxiety. These videos have now been viewed more than 42 million times since March 2020. He also wrote *You Were Made for this Moment* during the pandemic, making his wise observations even more applicable and powerful. Through the story of Esther, Lucado reveals a God of “the big plot twist,” capable of turning any story—even his own—in a surprising new direction.

In God’s hands no script is predictable, no storyline is inevitable, no outcome is certain,” Lucado explains. “He is ever a turn of the page from a turn-on-a dime turnaround. For heaven’s sake, look in the Bethlehem barn. Who saw this coming? Or, better asked, who saw him coming? He is the God of grand reversals.”

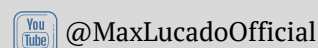
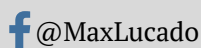


"The greatest reversal occurred in a cemetery outside of Jerusalem. Jesus the Christ was Jesus the corpse. No pulse. No breath. No hope. Wrapped tighter than an Egyptian mummy; three days dead in a borrowed tomb."

He uses the stories of God getting the final word to encourage readers to keep believing, in spite of difficult days. **"Who’s to say God doesn’t have a reversal in your future? Don’t let the middle of the story confuse you. Don’t be thrown off by the prosperity of the wicked or the seeming success of the evil people of the world. Instead, set your eyes on the author of your salvation."**

Lucado adds: “Don’t measure the height of the mountain. Ponder the power of the one who made it. Don’t tell God how big your storm is. Tell the storm how big your God is. Your problem is not that your problem is so big, but that your view of God is too small.”

Max Lucado entered the ministry in 1978 and has served churches in Miami, Florida; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and San Antonio, Texas. He currently serves as Teaching Minister of Oak Hills Church in San Antonio. He is America's bestselling inspirational author with more than 145 million products in print. He’s been dubbed “America’s Pastor” by *Christianity Today*, and "The Best Preacher in America" by *Reader’s Digest*. He was awarded the ECPA Pinnacle Award in 2021 for outstanding contribution to publishing. Visit his website at MaxLucado.com.



Max Lucado Encouraging Word Podcast (1.6 million downloads in first 10 months)

Thomas Nelson is a world leading publisher and provider of Christian content. With over 250 new, original books and Bibles published each year and distributed in more than 100 countries, translating content in more than 65 different languages, Thomas Nelson is committed to one central mission: inspiring the world by meeting the needs of people with content that promotes biblical principles and honors Jesus Christ. As part of HarperCollins Christian Publishing, Inc., the publishing group provides multiple formats of award-winning Bibles, books, gift books, cookbooks, curricula and digital content, with distribution of its products in more than 100 countries.

***You Were Made for This Moment:
Courage for Today and Hope for Tomorrow***
By Max Lucado

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Review copies, reprint permission and interviews are available.
Contact Jana Muntsinger, McClure Muntsinger Public Relations, 832.247.9308, jana@mmpublicrelations.com

MAX LUCADO

Author of

You Were Made for This Moment: Courage for Today and Hope for Tomorrow



Max Lucado is a pastor, speaker, and bestselling author who, in his own words, “writes books for people who don’t read books.” He serves the people of Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas, and his message is for the hurting, the guilty, the lonely, and the discouraged: God loves you; let him.

His newest book, *You Were Made for This Moment: Courage for Today and Hope for Tomorrow* (Thomas Nelson, September 2021), is a relevant and timely release for a society still reeling from racial divides, political strife, and a global pandemic. **Lucado** demonstrated how he embraced his “moment” to minister in 2020, starting a daily video check-in. These messages have continued and have been viewed more than 42 million times since March 2020. In these videos as well as in his new book, Lucado encourages others to live fully in the grace and love of God, to step out in bold courage and faith, and to trust God for victory over all injustices.

As a writer, **Max** is known for combining poetic storytelling and homespun humor with the heart of a pastor. All of his trade books began as sermon series at Oak Hills Church, and his sermons all begin with Max asking himself this question: “**What can I say on Sunday that will still matter on Monday?**” He’s been dubbed “America’s Pastor” by *Christianity Today*, and “The Best Preacher in America” by *Reader’s Digest*.

Max’s books have sold more than 92 million copies in 54 languages worldwide and his books regularly appear on bestseller lists, including *The New York Times*. His writing has also been featured in Bible studies, Bible commentaries, songs, greeting cards, and even plush toys.

Max’s love for everyday people began during his childhood in the small town of Andrews, Texas. His father was an oilfield mechanic, his mother was a nurse, and **Max** spent a lot of his time either running from or running after his brother, Dee. **Max** grew rebellious in his teenage years, and after one specific drunken night, he began to wonder if there was more to life than parties and chasing girls. He now believes that if Jesus hadn’t found him, alcoholism would have been in his future.

After high school, **Max** attended Abilene Christian University and left with two degrees and a heart for following Jesus and helping others learn about him, too. He moved to Miami, Florida, and took a position as an associate pastor at a small church. This is where **Max** started writing about Jesus for the first time in the church’s monthly newsletter. Those columns were put together as a manuscript and sent to 15 publishers. Fourteen rejected his book, but the 15th said yes. That first book, *On the Anvil*, was published in 1985. Florida was also where **Max** met his wife, Denalyn. Together, they lived first in Miami and then spent several years in Rio de Janeiro, helping plant churches. They will celebrate 40 years of marriage in 2021.

During 2020, in addition to the daily video check ins, **Max** was featured on hundreds of media outlets including Fox News, Dave Ramsey Radio, KLOVE, TBN, CBN, Moody Radio, The FISH and Extra TV to name a few. He and his publisher started free online Bible studies on his bestselling books *Anxious for Nothing*, *You'll Get Through This*, and *Facing Your Giants* to respond to the COVID crisis.

Max and Denalyn live in San Antonio, Texas. They have three grown daughters, two sons-in-law, and two grandchildren.

Website: MaxLucado.com

 @MaxLucado

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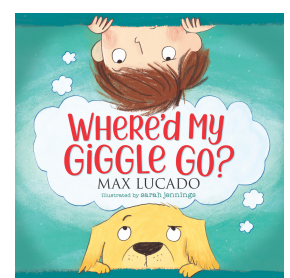
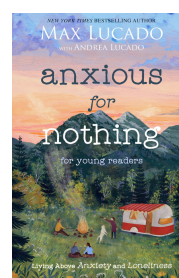
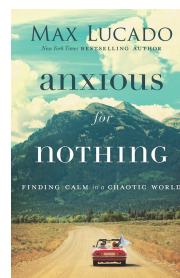
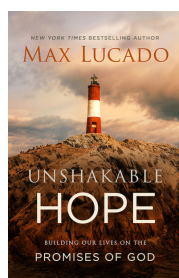
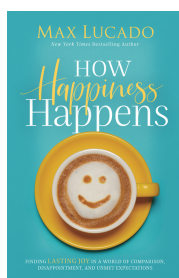
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Max Lucado Encouraging Word Podcast (1.6 million downloads in first 10 months)

MAX LUCADO STATS

- **2.4 million** followers on Facebook (facebook.com/MaxLucado)
- **1.3 million** followers on Twitter (twitter.com/MaxLucado)
- **293,000** followers on Instagram (instagram.com/maxlucado)
- **60,400** subscribers on YouTube (youtube.com/MaxLucadoOfficial)
- **1.6 million** podcast downloads in first 10 months (Launched 7/20/2020)
- **145 million** Max Lucado products in print
- **92 million** books in print (in 56 languages)
- **1 in 6** Americans are familiar with Max Lucado and **1 in 7** Americans have read a Lucado book
- Served Oak Hills Church in San Antonio as pastor since **1988**
- **42 million** video views during Coronavirus Check-Ins and Online Church since mid-March 2020
- **45%** growth in book sales during COVID months (compared to same months last year)



**You Were Made for This Moment:
Courage for Today and Hope for Tomorrow**

By Max Lucado

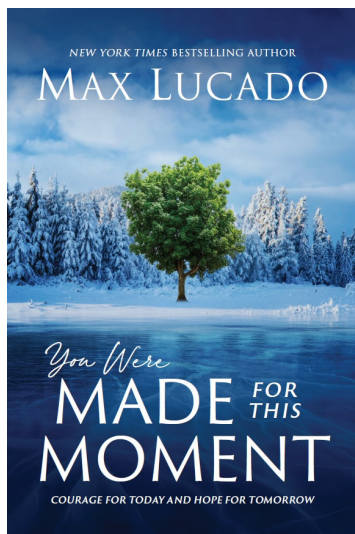
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Interview Questions

"Don't measure the height of the mountain. Ponder the power of the one who made it. Don't tell God how big your storm is. Tell the storm how big your God is. Your problem is not that your problem is so big, but that your view of God is too small."



GUEST: Max Lucado -
Pastor and *New York Times* bestselling author

BOOK: *You Were Made for This Moment: Courage for Today and Hope for Tomorrow*
(Thomas Nelson)

AVAILABLE:
September 2021

WEBSITE:
www.MaxLucado.com

SOCIALS:
[@MaxLucado](https://twitter.com/MaxLucado)

- 1 What are some specific ways believers can live bold lives of courage, inspired by Esther? And is this what you mean by saying that “we were made for this moment?”
- 2 How is the story of Esther the exact story we need to guide us through the challenging days we are going through currently?
- 3 In what ways is the theme of Esther the theme of the entire Bible?
- 4 How did writing this book during COVID-19 lockdown impact what made it onto the page?
- 5 Even though God is never mentioned in the book of Esther, how do you see the providence of God on clear display throughout?
- 6 You break Esther’s story into three acts. How does this reveal a common theme in how God works?
- 7 At the beginning of Esther, Esther and Mordecai hide their Jewish identities. How do their issues of identity compare to how we also struggle with our own identities?
- 8 How would you encourage someone to look for God in the details of their story when God seems quiet, feels absent, or doesn’t show up like we would like?
- 9 What is the Jewish holiday of Purim and what can Christians learn from it?
- 10 What are some of the injustices you see in our society today that are prime opportunities for Christians to move into the world waving the banner of God’s justice?
- 11 Can you explain what it means that “God is already victorious,” even when circumstances may appear bleak or out of control?
- 12 What’s the point of all the big plots twists found in stories throughout the Bible?
- 13 How can we “right-size” our view of God to inspire us to live bold lives of faith?

Fun Book Sales Facts

MAX LUCADO

40+ Years of Publishing

Over the past 41 years, Max Lucado has sold more than 130 million books.
That's a lot of books!

Here are a few comparisons to make this sales number a little more concrete.



If you stacked all of Max's books from end to end...

Well, you wouldn't quite reach the moon. But you would be able to line up books from San Francisco to New York City and back—over three times. Meaning—all the Lucado books sold to date could be stacked 6.71 titles deep in a line spanning the continental U.S. Or here's another scenario. If you started in Max's hometown of San Antonio, Texas, you could blaze a single trail of books all the way to Beijing, China, and then continue on all the way to London, England, visit Big Ben, and travel back to San Antonio, and still have extra books. You could pave a path of books all the way down the length of the Great Wall of China and then back again.

For you sports fans, that's equivalent to 286,343 football fields. Or one football field covered completely in 969 layers of books... For the architects out there, this football field would then look like an almost ten-story building, filled with nothing but Lucado books. Or you could individually stack all his books sold, one on top of another, to reach the top of the Empire State Building...849,000 times!

The Grand Canyon is 18 miles across at its widest point, but there's currently no bridge for driving across this mighty gulf. But you could construct a four-lane bridge, 29-books thick, out of the Lucado books sold in the last four decades. (*Support beams not included, drive at your own risk!)

If, for some reason, you had to get rid of 130 million books...

You could give one book to everyone who attends the Super Bowl for the next 1,625 years. Or you could knock on the door of everyone who lives in the state of Alaska and hand them 178 books each. Or deliver a book to every person in Mexico—or Japan—whichever is more convenient for you.

Oh, and if Max really needed all his sold books to reach the moon, his loyal readers only need to purchase 1,463,225,283 more!

MORE MAX LUCADO STATS

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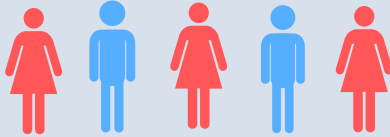
MAX LUCADO

BY THE NUMBERS

40 years he's been married to Denalyn



Number of Daughters



plus two sons-in-law

Sara and Jeff, Jenna and Brett, Andrea

5 years he served as a missionary in Brazil



130 million books in print

Number of Grandchildren



Rosie and Max



2.4 million followers



1.3 million followers



296k followers

1

misbehaving mutt in his home



145 million



total number of products in print

3:16

as in John; his favorite verse

45



languages his books have been translated into

year he began serving the Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, TX

1988

45 million



video views during COVID video ministry



Golf Handicap 12

1.5 million

podcast downloads since July 2020



23



books that have each sold 1 MILLION copies

45% growth in book sales during COVID

year his first book, *On the Anvil*, was published



Q&A with Max Lucado

Author of *You Were Made for This Moment*

Q How are the darkness and dangers of winter an apt metaphor for the challenging days many of us are living through?

A Spring will see blossoms. Summer sways bushy leaves in the wind. Autumn gives forth a harvest of plenty. But winter? Winter is still, deathly still. Fields are frosty. Trees extend skeletal limbs. Wildlife is silent. Gone. Winter brings danger. Blizzards. Ice storms. Caution is the theme.

Come springtime, you'll run barefoot through the meadow and plunge into the pond. But now? It's best to button up, zip up, stay in, and stay safe. It's winter out there. Especially if you are realizing that life is not going to turn out the way you thought. Your parents divorced. Your spouse cheated. Your health never recovered. Your friend never returned. In that moment, a Siberian cold settled over your life. Your world became an arctic circle of dark days, long nights, and bitter weather. Winter.

Q How did COVID-19 affect your writing of this book?

A This book was born in a season of winter, as I just described. As I pen these words, every person on the planet is living in the frost-nip of COVID-19. A pandemic has locked us down. Church doors are closed. Students are stuck at home. Masks hide smiles. A microscopic virus has paralyzed us. And an ancient sin threatens to undo us. Those of us who'd hoped racism was fading were convinced otherwise. An officer's knee on the neck of a black man activated a subterranean anger. A volcano spewed into the streets of most countries. The entire world seems wrapped in winter. We are all searching for springtime.

Q How is the encouragement of Esther's story the perfect antidote to our current winter?

A The book that bears her name was written to be read in wintertime. Written for the emotionally weary. Written for the person who feels outnumbered by foes, outmaneuvered by fate, and outdone by fear.

It's as if God, in his kind providence, heard all the prayers of all the souls who have ever been stuck in an arctic February. To every person who has longed to see a green sprig on a barren branch, he says, "Follow me. I want you to see what I can do." He escorts us to the front row of a grand theater and invites us to take a seat. He nods at the symphony conductor. The baton is lifted, the music begins, the curtain opens, and we are eyewitnesses to a triumph of divine drama.

Winters don't last forever. Trees will soon bud. Snow will soon melt. Springtime is only a turn of the calendar away. For all we know, God's hand is about to turn the page.

Q Is it true that God is never mentioned in the Esther story?

A The book of Esther is famous for being one of only two books in the Bible that never mentions the name of God. Up until this point he has been everywhere, seemingly on every page. In Eden, the Creator. In Ur, the Prompter. In Egypt, the Liberator. In the Promised Land, the Warrior. But in Persia? The trail has grown cold. At no point do we read, “And God said” or “God chose” or “God decreed.” There is no mention of the temple or the name Yahweh or Elohim, the Hebrew noun meaning God. There is no mention of Jerusalem. No apocalyptic visions, as Daniel saw, or concern for the law, as Ezra expressed. Prayer is implied, but not described. The seas do not split. The heavens do not roar. No dry bones come to life.

Why? Why the absence of spirituality? Why the seeming silence of God? If you are in the midst of winter, you can relate to the question. God seems hidden to you. Distant. Removed. Absent from your script. Your world feels unchained from the sun. Others hear from God. You don't. Others say they know the will of God. You're bewildered. Others have a backstage pass to his performance. But you? You can't find his name on the playbill. Is he there? Does he care? You're unsure.

Q How do you see God showing up in her story?

A Quiet providence.

Providence is the two-dollar term theologians use to describe God's continuous control over history. He not only spoke the universe into being, but he governs it by his authority. He is “sustaining all things by his powerful word” (Heb. 1:3). He is regal, royal, and (this is essential) he is right here. He is not preoccupied with the plight of Pluto at the expense of your problems and pain. God has been known to intervene dramatically. By his hand, the Red Sea opened, the manna fell from heaven, a virgin gave birth, and a tomb gave life.

Yet, for every divine shout there are a million whispers. Esther relates the story of our whispering God. In unseen and inscrutable ways, he superintends all actions and circumstances for the good of his people. This priceless book reminds us he need not be loud to be strong. He need not cast a shadow to be present. God is still eloquent in his seeming silence and still active when he appears most distant.

Q Explain the three acts of the grand story you see told in the book of Esther.

A Act I--Confusion: God's people choose the glamor of Persia over the goodness of God. Compromise replaces convictions. Confusion replaces clarity.

Act II--Crisis: a decree of death places three million Jews on life support. What hope does a fringe minority have in a pagan society?

Act III--Conquest: the unspeakable happens. Something so unexpected that “sorrow turned into joy [and their] mourning somersaulted into a holiday for parties and fun and laughter” (Esther 9:22 MSG).

Q In what way does the theme of Esther reflect the theme of the entire Bible?

A The theme of the book of Esther, indeed, the theme of the Bible, is that all the injustices of the world will be turned on their head.

Grand reversals are God's trademark. When we feel like everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the king of quiet providence...and he invites you and me to partner in his work. The headline of the book of Esther reads: Relief will come...will you be a part of it? When all seems lost, it's not. When evil seems to own the day, it is God who has the final say. He has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescue, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther.

Q In what ways are the lies and confusion of Persia applicable to us today?

A The point of the first chapter of Esther is simply this: Persia is lying to you. Do we need the same reminder? The assignment given to the Jews has been passed on to us. God displays his glory and goodness through the Church. As we worship God, love our neighbors, and cherish our families, we become billboards of God's message.

We, too, are caretakers. Caretakers of the message of Jesus. He was born through the lineage of the Jews. Today, he is born through the lives of his saints. As you and I live out our faith, he is delivered into a faith-famished culture. We have the hope that this world needs. But sometimes we forget. Persia is lying to us. I don't mean to be blunt, but, then again, I do. Billion-dollar industries are conning to lure you into lifestyles that will leave you wounded and weary. How do God's people live in a godless society? Blend in and assimilate? No, this is the time to stand out and assist. We were made for this moment.

Q How do we face similar temptations as Mordecai and Esther regarding our identity in this world?

A Our society permits all beliefs, except an exclusive one. Do whatever you want as long as you applaud what everyone else does. The incontestable value of Western culture is tolerance. Ironically, the champions of tolerance are intolerant of a religion, like Christianity, that adheres to one Savior and one solution to the human problem. To believe in Jesus as the only redeemer is to incur the disdain of Persia.

In such moments, God's message is clear: Remember your name. "What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are" (1 John 3:1 MSG). Do you know who you are? And whose you are? You are the presence of Jesus in this world--an eternal being, destined for an eternal home. Pimply-faced and gangly? Hogwash. You are a citizen of heaven. Unique in all of creation. Secured by Christ for eternity. The devil can't touch you. The demons can't have you. The world can't possess you. What people think about you matters not one whit. You belong to your heavenly Father.

Q How did Esther find the courage to take on the role of moral leader for her people, determined to lead her people through a crisis?

A It had to be the straightforward message of Mordecai. Yes, the world is in a mess. Yes, we've fallen victim to a brutal Haman. But relief will come, and "who knows whether you have come into the kingdom for such a time as this?" Mordecai opened a window and shed a divine light into Esther's world. "You are here for a reason," he said. "Your life is part of a plan. You were placed here on purpose for a purpose."

So were you, my friend. You, like Esther, were made for this moment. To be clear, you didn't ask for this struggle. You want to get past it. You don't know how much longer you can hold up. But what if God is in this? Did he not place you on this planet in this generation? He determined your birthdate, nationality, and selected your neighborhood (see Acts 17:26). What if you, like Esther, have an opportunity to act in a way that will bless more people than you could imagine? This is your hour. This is your moment. You were made to stand up like Mordecai, to speak up like Esther. Deliverance will come. God will have his victory. He will rescue his people. He will right the wrongs of this world. The question is not, Will God prevail? The question is, Will you be part of the team?

Q How does the story of Esther guide us to use prayer when facing our own challenges?

A The moment you bow your head to pray is the moment God lifts his hand to help.

Your heavenly Father wants to hear from you. Desperate? Without options? Without solutions? By no means. Now, more than ever, is the time to get down on your knees and plead for mercy. Esther could have remained hidden and done nothing. Or, she could have rushed into the presence of Xerxes. But she chose the wiser recourse. She chose prayer. Her story urges us to do the same. This is the time for a no-nonsense, honest, face-on-the-floor talk with the Lord of All. Garments need not be ripped, but veneer must be removed. Three days of fasting is optional, but the prayer of genuine humility is not. What is your version of Xerxes? What Haman-sized challenge are you facing? Is your job in jeopardy? Is your loved one in hospice? Is your family under attack? Is your faith in tatters? Retreat into your prayer closet. The queen could enter the throne room of Xerxes because she had spent time in throne room of God. The same is true in your story and mine. Once we've spoken to the king of heaven, we are ready to face any king on earth.

Q What encouragement can we get from how Mordecai's life is saved?

A The next time you hear someone say, "the devil is in the details," correct them. God is in the details. He works in the small moments. The insignificant becomes significant because he is ever orchestrating the day-to-day details of innumerable lives through millennia of time to do what he has foreordained to do. Assume that God is at work. Move forward as if God is moving forward in your life. Give no quarter to the voices of doubt and fear. Don't cower to the struggle. You can't see God's hand? Can't make sense of his ways? That's ok. Obey what you know to do and be patient for what you don't. "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength" (Is.40:31 NKJV). When the world seems off the rails, hold fast to this truth: butterfly wings don't determine the course of history. God does. He did in the days of Esther. He still does today.

Q How is the grand plot twist in Esther's story reveals a powerful characteristic of God?

A In God's hands no script is predictable, no storyline is inevitable, no outcome is certain. He is ever a turn of the page from a turn-on-a dime turnaround. For heaven's sake, look in the Bethlehem barn. Who saw this coming? Or, better asked, who saw him coming? God, sleeping in a feed trough, still moist from Mary's womb. He held the universe in one moment, squeezed Mary's pinkie the next. He is the God of grand reversals.

The greatest reversal occurred in a cemetery outside of Jerusalem. Jesus the Christ was Jesus the corpse. No pulse. No breath. No hope. Wrapped tighter than an Egyptian mummy; three days dead in a borrowed tomb. His enemies raised a toast to a dead Messiah. Who's to say he doesn't have a reversal in your future? Don't let the middle of the story confuse you. Don't be thrown off by the prosperity of the wicked or the seeming success of the Hamans of the world. Instead, set your eyes on the author of your salvation

Q Why does the story of Esther end with a call to remember?

A Just as Christians read the story of the birth of Christ at Christmas, the Jews read the story of Esther during the feast of Purim. The holiday is to be commemorated after the scheduled day of execution, a reminder that the day is come and gone, and the Jews are still standing. We tend to forget. We tend to forget that God is for us, not against us. That God is near us, not away from us. That God is busy, not sleepy. Do we not suffer from spiritual amnesia? We tend to forget that God can make beauty out of ashes, joy out of mourning, an army out of a valley of dead bones, and rejoicing out of sorrow. We need memorials that jog our memory.

Q Can we trust that God is able to defeat our own challenges today?

A Nothing is too hard for the Lord. You must start here.

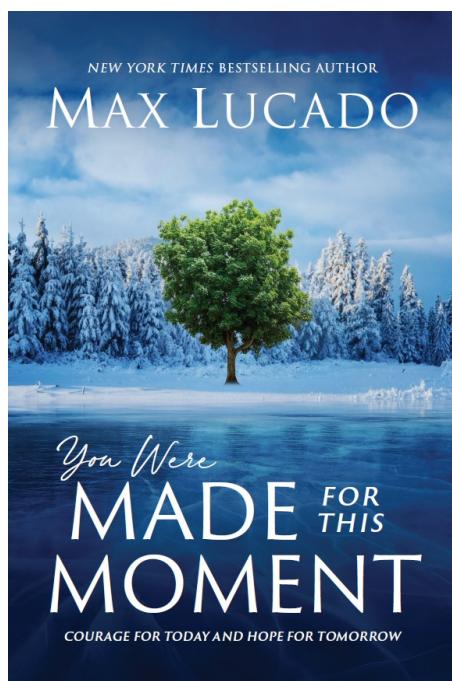
Don't measure the height of the mountain. Ponder the power of the one who made it. Don't tell God how big your storm is. Tell the storm how big your God is. Your problem is not that your problem is so big, but that your view of God is too small. Meditate less on the mess and more on the master. Less on the problems and more on his power.

Sometimes I wonder if the church has forgotten the vastness of God. Visit a congregation on a given Sunday, and you'll likely find a group of people sitting in comfortable chairs, hearing a comforting message about a God who keeps us comfortable. Do we know him before whom we gather? Do we understand that demons fear and flee at the sound of his name? That angels have been singing holy, holy, holy since creation, and still haven't sung it often enough? That a glimpse of God's glory caused Isaiah, the prophet, to beg for grace, and Moses, the patriarch, to duck under the protection of a rock? Do we comprehend his grandeur? His glory, fire, and power? If we did, we'd likely enter the sanctuary wearing helmets and body armor. Are we suffering from a loss of awe? And if we are, what are the consequences? Here's what I think. A wimpy God makes for a wimpy heart. But a great God makes for a solid saint. Let him be big.

Q How can we let our seasons of struggle turn us into Esthers and Mordecai's?

A Seasons of struggle can be a treacherous time for the human heart. We are sitting ducks for despair and defeat. We turn away from others, turn our backs on God, and turn into fearful, cynical souls. Despair can be a dangerous season. But it can also be a developing time, a time in which we learn to trust God, to lean into his Word and rely on his ways.

The choice is ours. To help us choose the wise path, God gave the wonderfully wild story of Esther. It seems to me that the entire world is in a state of trauma. People do not know why they were born or to where they are destined. This is the age of much know-how and very little know-why. The invisible enemy of sin and secularism has left us dazed and bewildered. The world needs you! We need people with the resolve of Mordecai and the courage of Esther. The world is in desperate need for a people of God who will stay steady in the chaos.



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