

For Such A Time As This

New Hope Baptist Church • Sunday, August 30, 2026

Primary Text: Esther 4:14 • Supporting Texts: Romans 13:11–12; Matthew 24:6, 12–14, 36, 44; Isaiah 6:8; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Revelation 2:4–5; Matthew 28:19–20; Ephesians 5:15–16

Sermon Aim

To call believers to recognize the urgency of the hour, answer God’s call with obedience, get their hearts right before Him, and recommit themselves to the mission of the Gospel. The message should reach both the unsaved person who needs to answer Christ’s call to salvation and the believer who needs rededication, renewed service, or a fresh sense of spiritual purpose.

Introduction — The Time Is Now

Church, every generation has moments that test whether its faith is merely something it talks about or something it is willing to live. There are ordinary days, and then there are defining days. There are seasons when we can move along casually, and then there are moments when the circumstances around us seem to sound a trumpet and say, “Wake up. Pay attention. This matters.”

I believe we are living in an hour when the church cannot afford to be spiritually asleep. I am not talking about panic. I am not talking about setting dates for the return of Christ. Jesus Himself told us that no man knows the day or the hour. But He also told us to watch, to be ready, to endure, and to preach the Gospel. Biblical readiness is not fear. Biblical readiness is faithfulness.

We look around and see a world full of confusion, violence, moral compromise, broken homes, spiritual apathy, anxiety, deception, and people searching everywhere for answers. We see people who know church language but do not know Christ. We see believers who love the Lord but have allowed their fire to burn low. We see communities that desperately need churches that are alive, prayerful, compassionate, evangelistic, and serious about the Word of God.

And right in the middle of that reality stands New Hope Baptist Church. We are not here by accident. We are not at this address by accident. We are not alive in this generation by accident. God has allowed us to be here, in this place, at this moment. The question is not simply, “Why are the times like this?” The greater question is, “What does God expect His people to do in times like this?”

That brings us to Esther. Mordecai looked at Esther in the middle of a national crisis and told her, in essence, “Do not assume that where you are is only about you. Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Esther had a position, but her position carried responsibility. She had an opportunity, but her opportunity required a decision. She had influence, but influence meant nothing if she refused to use it when it mattered.

So the message this morning is simple and urgent: For Such A Time As This. The time is now to answer the call. The time is now to get our hearts right. The time is now to recommit ourselves to the work of Jesus Christ. The time is now for the lost to be saved, for the backslidden to come home, for the discouraged to rise again, and for the church to advance the Gospel.

I. Esther teaches us that a providential moment requires a response. — Esther 4:14

Mordecai's words to Esther are among the most memorable words in the Old Testament: "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther did not create the crisis. She did not choose the threat that faced her people. She did not ask for the responsibility that suddenly rested on her shoulders. But she did have to choose what she would do with the moment.

That is where this passage becomes deeply personal. We do not choose every circumstance in our lives. We do not choose every cultural change. We do not choose every battle the church faces. We do not choose every crisis that lands at our door. But we do choose whether we will respond in faith or retreat into comfort.

Esther could have convinced herself that silence was safer. She could have said, "Somebody else will do it." She could have treated her position as a privilege without accepting its responsibility. Mordecai reminded her that silence itself was a decision.

Sometimes the greatest danger to the church is not open opposition. Sometimes it is comfortable inactivity. We know what is right, but we wait. We see the need, but we assume someone else will respond. We know whom we ought to invite, whom we ought to witness to, what ministry we ought to support, what habit we ought to surrender, what relationship we ought to repair — but we delay.

New Hope, maybe the question before us is not, "Why did God place us here?" Maybe the answer is already clear. He placed us here to worship Him, preach Christ, love people, disciple believers, reach the lost, and be a light in this community. The question is whether we will embrace the assignment for such a time as this.

Transition: Before we can respond rightly, we must first recognize what kind of time this is.

II. Recognize the time: this is no hour for spiritual sleep. — Romans 13:11–12

Paul writes, "Now it is high time to awake out of sleep." That language is urgent. Paul is speaking to believers. He is not telling dead people to wake up; he is telling living Christians not to live as though they are asleep.

Spiritual sleep is dangerous because a sleeping person can be surrounded by urgency and remain unaware of it. A spiritually sleeping church can have Bibles, hymns, meetings, buildings, and traditions and still fail to recognize what God is calling it to do.

Paul says the night is far spent and the day is at hand. In other words, time is moving. Eternity is closer today than it was yesterday. Our opportunity to serve Christ in this life is not unlimited. Every year is one year we will never get back. Every Sunday is a stewardship. Every conversation with a lost person is an opportunity that may not come again.

This is why urgency matters. Urgency does not mean frantic activity. It means refusing to waste what God has placed in our hands. There are prayers we need to pray now. There are people we need to love now. There are invitations we need to make now. There are sins we need to confess now. There are ministries we need to strengthen now.

We cannot keep saying, “One day the church will grow,” while refusing to do the work today that growth requires. We cannot say, “One day I will get serious with God,” while repeatedly pushing obedience into tomorrow. The Word says: now it is high time to awake.

III. The signs of the times should produce readiness, not panic. — Matthew 24

Jesus told His disciples that they would hear of wars and rumors of wars. He spoke of deception, lawlessness, persecution, false prophets, and the love of many growing cold. Those words remind us that a fallen world will remain a troubled world until Christ sets all things right.

But we must handle these passages carefully. Jesus did not give the signs so Christians could spend their lives guessing dates. In the same chapter He said that no man knows the day and hour. The command is not to calculate. The command is to watch. The command is to be ready.

There is a major difference between panic and urgency. Panic says, “Everything is falling apart, so be afraid.” Biblical urgency says, “Christ is Lord, eternity is real, so be faithful.” Panic paralyzes. Purpose mobilizes.

Notice something else in Matthew 24: Jesus says, “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world.” In the middle of the trouble, the mission continues. The church’s response to dark times is not to hide in a corner. It is to shine brighter. The darker the night, the more visible the light ought to be.

So when we say the signs are everywhere, our response should be: then let us pray more, witness more, love more, serve more, preach more clearly, and live more faithfully. Let the signs remind us that time matters.

IV. Answer the clarion call: God is still asking, “Who will go?” — Isaiah 6:8

Isaiah heard the Lord say, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Isaiah answered, “Here am I; send me.” There is the heartbeat of a responsive believer.

God did not ask Isaiah whether he approved of the assignment. He asked whether he was available. The church often has no shortage of opinions; what the kingdom needs is surrendered people.

There comes a point when conviction must become action. We can agree that people need Jesus. We can agree that the church needs growth. We can agree that young people need discipleship. We can agree that our community needs prayer. But agreement alone does not advance the kingdom. Someone must say, “Here am I. I will go. I will serve. I will invite. I will teach. I will help.”

Maybe your “yes” is not a pulpit. Maybe it is visiting someone lonely. Maybe it is bringing a child to Sunday School. Maybe it is calling somebody who has stopped attending. Maybe it is singing in the choir, helping with a ministry, praying faithfully, giving consistently, mentoring a younger believer, or telling a neighbor what Jesus has done for you.

The clarion call is not only for preachers. Every believer has been called to follow Christ and participate in His mission.

V. Get your heart right now: salvation and rededication cannot live forever in “someday.” — 2 Corinthians 6:2; Revelation 2:4–5

Paul says, “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” If you do not know Jesus Christ as Savior, the most important decision in this sermon is not what ministry you will join. It is whether you will trust Christ.

The Gospel is that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again. Salvation is not earned by church attendance, good works, family heritage, or trying harder. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ. And the invitation of Scripture is urgent: now is the day of salvation.

Do not assume you will always have another convenient opportunity. Do not put your soul into the hands of tomorrow. If the Spirit of God is drawing you, come to Christ today.

But there is another group in the room. You are saved, but you know you have drifted. You have not rejected Jesus, but your love has cooled. Your prayer life is weaker. Your hunger for the Word has faded. You have allowed distractions, bitterness, disappointment, or simple neglect to move Christ away from the center.

To the church at Ephesus, Jesus said, “Thou hast left thy first love.” Then He said, “Remember... repent, and do the first works.” That is the language of rededication. Return. Come back. Put Jesus back where He belongs.

Rededication is not getting saved again. It is a saved person saying, “Lord, I have not been where I need to be. I surrender again. Clean my heart. Restore my joy. Use my life.” For such a time as this, the church needs believers whose hearts are right.

VI. Advance the mission: Jesus expects His church to go. — Matthew 28:19–20

Jesus said, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.” That is not a suggestion for unusually enthusiastic Christians. It is the marching order of the church.

We often pray for church growth — and we should. But the Great Commission reminds us that growth is connected to going. We cannot sit inside the walls and expect the world to wander in. Somebody has to invite. Somebody has to witness. Somebody has to build relationships. Somebody has to disciple the people God sends.

The church grows spiritually when believers grow in obedience. It grows relationally when believers love one another. It grows missionally when believers take the Gospel outside the building. And when God chooses to give numerical increase, a healthy church is prepared to receive and disciple that harvest.

New Hope does not need to become somebody else’s church. We need to become everything Christ is calling New Hope to be: biblically faithful, prayerful, welcoming, compassionate, evangelistic, and ready to serve.

The promise attached to the Great Commission is powerful: “Lo, I am with you always.” We do not go alone. The same Jesus who commands the mission accompanies the church in the mission.

VII. Redeem the time: stop waiting for a better moment to obey. — Ephesians 5:15–16

Paul tells us to walk wisely, “redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” To redeem the time means to make the most of the opportunity God has given us.

Time is one of the few resources none of us can store. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow is not guaranteed. We have today.

How many things have we postponed because we thought there would always be more time? “I will call them later. I will apologize later. I will witness later. I will come back to church later. I will surrender later. I will serve later.” Later can become a spiritual hiding place.

For such a time as this means we stop waiting for conditions to become perfect. Esther did not act because circumstances were easy. She acted because the moment required faith.

This church has a moment. You have a moment. Use it.

VIII. What “For Such A Time As This” looks like at New Hope

It means we pray like the spiritual future of this church matters — because it does.

It means we invite people. Not because we are trying to fill seats for appearance, but because people need the Gospel and believers need a church family.

It means we serve instead of assuming somebody else will do it. Every healthy church has people who have decided that ministry is not something they watch; ministry is something they participate in.

It means we disciple the people God sends us. Growth without discipleship produces crowds, not mature Christians.

It means we reconcile what needs to be made right. Revival and resentment do not live comfortably in the same heart.

It means we expect God to use us — not because we are impressive, but because He is powerful.

The question is not whether New Hope is the biggest church. The question is whether New Hope will be a faithful church for such a time as this.

Conclusion — What Will You Do With This Moment?

Mordecai’s question still echoes: “Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Esther could not control the time she lived in, but she could choose faithfulness within it. So can we.

You cannot control every headline. You cannot control every cultural shift. You cannot control what another person chooses. But you can decide whether your heart belongs fully to Jesus. You can decide whether you will pray. You can decide whether you will serve. You can decide whether you will witness. You can decide whether you will stop putting obedience off.

For the lost person: now is the day of salvation.

For the believer who has drifted: return to your first love.

For the believer who knows God is calling you deeper: say, “Here am I; send me.”

For the church: wake up, redeem the time, and advance the Gospel.

The time is now. The call is clear. And perhaps God has placed us right here, right now, for such a time as this.

Invitation — Hymn 196: “I Have Decided To Follow Jesus”

- If you need to be saved, come.
- If you are saved but need to rededicate your life, come.
- If God is calling you to surrender an area of your life, come.
- If God is calling you to greater service, come.
- If you simply need someone to pray with you, come.
- The invitation is not about emotion for emotion’s sake. It is about response. If God is speaking, answer Him today.