



## LESSON 9: Such a time as this Esther 4:1-17

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Today, we're going to look at more examples of how God uses ways and means to accomplish His purpose and to bring Himself glory that we wouldn't expect.

Read the following passages: Genesis 37:18-28, Genesis 39:1-23, Genesis 40:1-3, Genesis 40:6-23, Genesis 41:1-16, Genesis 41:25-41, Genesis 45:2-15.

What unusual steps did Joseph have to take in his "career path" before he became the second in command of Egypt?

Were these steps all positive ones?

Could Joseph do anything on his own to achieve this role of second in command?

Read Exodus 12:33-36, Exodus 14:1-30.

After finally rescuing His people from slavery, where did God lead His people?

Did this make any sense to the people?

What was their response?

Why does God say that He did this? (Exodus 14:4)

Did God achieve this goal? How?

Read Joshua 6:1-20. How was this victory brought about?

If you had been Joshua, would the instructions given to you have made sense? Why or why not?

Read Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38 and Luke 2:1-20. Is this how humans expect God (or a god) to enter the world?

Why or why not?

Was this the normal way for a baby to be born?

What was unusual about it?

Read Isaiah 55:6-9. Does it comfort you or frighten you to know that His ways are not our ways?

What does that tell you about your own expectations?

As you spend time with God today, consider Joseph and Moses and Joshua and, especially, the birth of our Savior. Think of other examples (don't agonize over this; just see if you can come up with a couple of other examples) of ways in which God provided for His people while demonstrating that His ways are not our ways. Examine your expectations and consider how you may be limiting God and trying to act in His place.

Ask Him to help you to trust in Him with all your might and lean not on your own understanding. Ask Him for the wisdom to discern His will, and lay your burdens down at His feet, today.