



For Such A Time
As This

Online:
Read our Bible Studies at www.tobepraised.com.

In-person:
Weekly Women Bible studies
@ the Holiday Inn
in Bridgeport, CT at 10am.

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Workbook 1
Revision 2



To Be Praised Ministries
www.tobepraised.com

A Note



Welcome to the FIRST To Be Praised study workbook! I'm so happy you're here. I'm so happy I'm here, too, ready to pour my heart out before the Lord.

To Be Praised empowers women to grow in Christ through spiritual and leadership development. Our mission comes from scripture that says *"Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised"*, Proverbs 31:30. One way we envision the mission coming to life is through workbooks like this one getting in the hands of a woman **everywhere**.

This study, "Such A Time As This", is taken from the book of Esther chapter four verse fourteen which says, **"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 your royal position for such a time as this?"** Esther experienced the death of her parents and was raised an adoptive daughter to her Uncle. In Esther's pain God wrote a story that would change her life and the lives of the Jewish people forever. Esther's journey to become Queen wasn't about the crown, but about the liberation of a nation! **She was born for such a time as this and you, too, have been born for such a time as this.**

In your life, what time is it? Are you in a particular life season? If so, which one? Is it time to be still or to stand up? Is it a time of transition? Is it a time of love or separation?

I believe we are living in an **appointed and anointed** time. God has appointed this time in your life for something specific. Let's begin a personal journey and figure out why.

Love & blessings,

Erika Kimberly Stanley
Founder & Content Creator



How To Use The Workbook



I've structured the workbook to include devotionals and scripture. Generally, I study the Bible with the following method and I think it may be helpful for those who are asking for help studying the Word!

#ToBePraised Study Method:

Pray: that God open your heart to the material you're about to study, His Word, and His voice.

Read: the assigned scriptures.

Notes: are a helpful way to interact with material. Make up areas that speak to you the most.

Self-reflect: on the scripture and answer the questions in each devotional. Be honest with yourself and God.

Pray: you are able to apply God's Word to your life daily based on what you've read and the reflective answers to each of the questions.



An Introduction



Let's read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 & 11.

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven—

A time to give birth and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

A time to kill and a time to heal;

A time to tear down and a time to build up.

A time to weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn and a time to dance.

A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;

A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.

A time to search and a time to give up as lost;

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;

A time to be silent and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate;

A time for war and a time for peace.

He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

Self-Reflection:

What time/season are you in right now? Feel free to pick more than one time/season.

Write about how this time of your life feels? Are there any challenges. List them. Are there any point of praise? List them.

How has God used this specific time in your life to teach you a valuable spiritual lesson?

God controls time because in the beginning, He created it. Genesis Chapter 1, the Bible notes that God created the Sun and the Moon, the larger and the lesser lights. Between verses 14 and 19, we see that time and light are linked together. Without light, there is no opportunity for time.

Interestingly enough, the Bible also says, "This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:5) How extraordinary is it that God is light and light determines time. Doesn't God determine time as well? He does!

As we walk through this Bible study, "For Such A Time As This", let's remember how important time is to God. He appoints time and He governs time by light because He is light.

The Time of Your Life



David had a God-given purpose and anointing on his life during the time he lived on Earth. His task was large and predestined by God. What's also important about David's life is that God called Him from such a young age. It took years for David to find himself in the full manifestation of God's promise, but as he waited God used time to prepare and strengthen David's faith. **Let's read Acts 13:36.**

"Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed."

God raised David up, at a specific time in history, to become a king whose influence would span every generation after it. Like David, we often think a purpose is always timely and always a part of a well thought out SPIRITUAL plan. David's kingship was a path preparing the world of Jesus. Though David never knew Jesus, his obedience to God was the necessary path God used to bring the Savior into this world. What an amazingly large charge that should remind each of us how important obedience is to God. Often, our obedience extends beyond the short parameters of our own lives.

Self-Reflection:

When is the last time you asked yourself, "Why am I here? What do I have to offer this world?"

Do you know why you were born in this specific time period? Take this question to God in prayer. Write down anything distinguishable about you? In what ways do your interests, personality, and upbringing have importance? Can your interests play an important role in the growth, nurturing, or redemption of humanity? Has your family structure been able to do something special in the lives of the people around you? Ask God, "why now? why me?" for clarity.

Jesus had a specific time for His purpose to manifest on Earth. There was an appointed time, just like Ecclesiastes told us, for Jesus' total purpose, the death--burial--resurrection to happen.

"Therefore Jesus told them, "My time is not yet here; for you any time will do", John 7:6.

"Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified", John 12:23.

We have time, a specific time, to be here on Earth; in our days God gives us purpose. All of us. Our purposes may look similar from a distance, but God does a new thing in every person's life! How exciting! I believe, if you haven't already, it is time for you to begin to pray about what your purpose is. Ask God to reveal to you how He wants you to spend your days. What has He called you to do? What gift or talent has God given you that the world needs right now? There is also a specific time we have to live out our God-given purpose. Let's tap into it now so we can be great women of God, women who are worthy of His praise!

A Time To Shine



Naturally, I like a little glitter, a lot of sparkle, and a healthy dose of shimmer. Why? Who knows, I blame Disney for that. But really, the most beautiful way for me to shine is spiritually. God designed each of us to shine spiritually and illuminate those around us.

Jesus said, you are a city set on a hill. Have you ever seen a city standing tall on a hill? It's luminous and the affection of everyone's eye. While it may not be your first inclination, I believe the way you look at yourself each morning should reflect this truth. Visualize yourself as a light set at the highest point of your town, city, or state. Envision your own brightness. Envision how your light can cast illumination on every side of you.

Let's read Matthew 5:14-16.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

As women, we dim our lights because we are fearful. Our self esteem, our past mistakes, our insecurities, and our fears are shadows that eclipse the light within us. If we aren't actively taking our shortcomings to the Lord and laying them at His feet for healing, we will shadow our God-given greatness. We must uproot the enemy's lies and believe we are who God says we are. If God says you are the light, you are the light. If we are the light, we can obey scripture that says to "walk in the Light as He is in the light", 1 John 1:5. I am praying more women will rise up and leave luminous footprints that lead this generation and the next generation to Jesus.

Self-Reflection:

Do you struggle with wanting to remain hidden and unexposed? Are you afraid to share your talents on a large platform? If so, why?

In what ways have you dimmed your spiritual light?

How can you do a better job of letting your light shine in your marriage, friendships, church and within the community?

As you reflect on the timely purpose and talents God has given you, may you be reminded of how beautiful and luminous you are in His sight.

A Time To Be Crowned



The God of all creation, the Father of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob created us with purpose. He also called us, claimed us, healed us, and crowned us. **Read Ezekiel 16:1-14.**

Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, make known to Jerusalem her abominations and say, 'Thus says the Lord God to Jerusalem, "Your origin and your birth are from the land of the Canaanite, your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. As for your birth, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water for cleansing; you were not rubbed with salt or even wrapped in cloths. No eye looked with pity on you to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you. Rather you were thrown out into the open field, for you were abhorred on the day you were born.

"When I passed by you and saw you squirming in your blood, I said to you while you were in your blood, 'Live!' Yes, I said to you while you were in your blood, 'Live!' I made you numerous like plants of the field. Then you grew up, became tall and reached the age for fine ornaments; your breasts were formed and your hair had grown. Yet you were naked and bare.

"Then I passed by you and saw you, and behold, you were at the time for love; so I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. I also swore to you and entered into a covenant with you so that you became Mine," declares the Lord God. "Then I bathed you with water, washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. I also clothed you with embroidered cloth and put sandals of porpoise skin on your feet; and I wrapped you with fine linen and covered you with silk. I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your hands and a necklace around your neck. I also put a ring in your nostril, earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your dress was of fine linen, silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour, honey and oil; so you were exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. Then your fame went forth among the nations on account of your beauty, for it was perfect because of My splendor which I bestowed on you," declares the Lord God.

Self-Reflection:

What emotions do these verses evoke?

Do you feel like you deserve this kind of love and attention from God? Why or why not?

How does God's love for you intersect with God's purpose for you? Think critically and deeply.



Thank you for reading this study and using this workbook in your spiritual journey. It is truly an honor to serve you. Also, and sincerely, thank you for being an inspiration to me. May God bless you and keep you in His hand.

Love & blessings,

Erika Kimberly Stanley

P.S. Since this is revision two of this workbook, I decided to add photos of the first To Be Praised in-person meet up. In the Summer of 2015, about fifteen women gathered at my house for a "Midsummers Night Dream" theme dinner party and Bible devotional. It was an epic night filled with laughter, games, flower crowns, and the sweetest desserts. Enjoy the photos and be on the look out for the 2017 Summer dinner party!







...And a woman who fears the Lord...

