

*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*  
Current Book: The Book of Esther – Message 4

**2016 VISION: Faithful in little things!**

## Scriptures for Today: Esther 2:1-22 – A New Queen is Sought & Esther is Chosen

**Title of Today's Message: God is in Control – A beautiful tale of God's providence in life's stories!**

### INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw the king's response to the queen's **disobedience**. Her **ACTIONS** had a much greater impact on the entire kingdom than she thought. The king sent letters into all the king's provinces to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house. Today, we will see more prophetic \_\_\_\_\_ in chapter 2 as *virgins* will be called out after the Gentile bride has been put aside. We will see the **providence of God** through seemingly \_\_\_\_\_ things that will add up to a very big result! Also, we will be introduced to a certain **Mordecai** – a \_\_\_\_\_ with a biblical lineage and history of captivity in Babylon. Among the virgins, a young maid named **Esther** (*also a Jew*) will be taken to the mighty Persian king Ahasuerus. He will *love her above all the women*, and she will *obtain grace and \_\_\_\_\_ in his sight*. She will become the new queen of the Persian empire! Now, this is quite an incredible tale. Just wait until you see **God in control** of it!

### PREACHING NOTES

1. *After these things*, when his wrath was appeased, fair young \_\_\_\_\_ were **sought** for the king.

✓ **Three years** have transpired since queen Vashti's removal.

Esther 2:16 "So **Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus** into his house...in the seventh year of his reign."

Esther 2:12 "Now when every maid's turn was come...after that she had been twelve months..."

NOTE It is interesting to look back on life and see how long it takes for some things to occur. In a day when we want answers in the speed of a microwave, God often cooks in the crock-pot! Historians believe this is likely the time when the Persians lost the epic battles to Greece.

✓ All the fair young virgins were **gathered together** at the palace – two times in our passage.

Esther 2:3, 8, 19 "And when the virgins were **gathered together** the second time..."

Revelation 7:1-17 "And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an **hundred and forty and four thousand** of all the tribes of the children of Israel...which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Revelation 14:3-4 "the **hundred and forty and four thousand**, which were redeemed...for they were virgins."

Matthew 25:1-6 "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins...And at midnight there was a cry made, **Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him**...And while they went to buy, **the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage**..."

NOTE Although the specific details are not always exact, the presence of the virgins and their gathering together twice clearly points to a prophetic reference of the Tribulation Period.

2. *Mordecai* and *Esther* take the **center stage** in the story as **God is at work** \_\_\_\_\_ **the scenes**.

✓ NOW in Shushan the palace **there was a certain JEW**, whose name was Mordecai...

2 Kings 16:6 "At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave **the Jews** from Elath"

Joshua 1:5 "as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: **I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee**."

Ezra 1:1-2 "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia...**the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia**...Thus saith Cyrus...The LORD God of heaven...hath charged me to build him an house"

NOTE The name “Jew” comes from a form and descendant of Judah – a Judaite or Jew. Although, there is no direct reference to God in Esther, as soon as it is known that Mordecai was a Jew – the anticipation of the reader of God’s Word should rise significantly! GOD IS AT WORK!

- ✓ Mordecai had brought up **Hadassah**, that is, Esther, and **the maid was fair and beautiful**.

Esther 2:8 “So it came to pass...that **Esther was brought also unto the king’s house...**”

Esther 2:20 “for **Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.**”

1 Peter 3:4 “But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”

NOTE With Esther’s introduction, we see the “star” that she is! She was more than a pretty face. Her true beauty came from within! Church – we need to STOP letting the WORLD dictate to us what REAL BEAUTY is! What God can do with one of His children who will obey Him!!

- ✓ As soon as Esther shows up, **Hegai shows her favour and kindness** – coincidence? NO ... God!

Esther 2:9 “And **the maiden pleased him**, and **she obtained kindness of him**; and **he speedily gave her her things for purification...and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place...**”

Esther 2:15 “And Esther **obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.**”

Genesis 39:21 “But **the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.**”

Genesis 45:7 “And **God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.**”

Exodus 3:21 “And **I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians**; and it shall come to pass...”

1 Samuel 2:26 “And the child Samuel grew on, **and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.**”

Dan 1:17-20 “As for these four children, **God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom... and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah...**”

Ezra 7:27-28 “Blessed be the LORD God... **which hath put such a thing as this in the king’s heart**”

Nehemiah 1:11 “I beseech thee...**grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king’s cupbearer.**”

Luke 2:52 “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, **and in favour with God and man.**”

Acts 2:47 “Praising God, **and having favour with all the people.** And the Lord added to the church...”

NOTE Have you removed the “GOD” variable from your life?? We have such little faith at times! When things go contrary to our expectations, we must not forget that GOD IS IN CONTROL!

- ✓ Esther **obtained grace and favour in the sight of king Ahasuerus** – and he made her queen!

Esther 2:17 “And **the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour...**”

Esther 2:18 “Then **the king made a great feast** unto all his princes and his servants, even **Esther’s feast**”

Revelation 14:4 “for they are **virgins** (144,000)...redeemed...**being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.**”

NOTE In the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the king’s reign, Esther became queen. At the end of the 7-year Tribulation Period, Israel will be redeemed by her King Jesus. In Rev 14, we find the JEWISH VIRGINS in heaven singing after being *redeemed from the earth*. “Firstfruits” = a post-trib “rapture”.

- ✓ *In those days*, Mordecai **thwarted an assassination plot** on the king – with no initial reward.

Esther 2:23 “And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and **it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.**”

Genesis 41:1-13 “And **it came to pass at the end of two full years**, that Pharaoh dreamed...Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, **I do remember my faults this day...**”

NOTE Esther chapter 2 ends with Mordecai (a picture of Israel) helping to save the Gentile king’s life and yet receiving no reward for his actions. The last verse simply says that his honorable deeds were recorded in the king’s book. We must not fret when our good deeds for our King go seemingly unnoticed! God is keeping good notes! Never fear ... **God is in control!**