

Esther 2

Jesus

I. Esther Becomes Queen

1 After these things...

- King Ahasuerus 2 Generous Feasts: 180/7 days
- Calls Queen Vashti/Refuses to come
- **Calls wise men for advice...**

Esther 1:19 If it pleases the king, let a royal decree go out from him, and let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it will not be altered, that **Vashti shall come no more [the King...]** and let the king give her royal position to another who is **better than she.**

- **Four years since Chapter 1:** Ahasuerus led Persia against Greece...**is defeated**

1 After these things when the wrath of King Ahasuerus subsided, he **remembered Vashti**, what she had done, and what had been decreed against her.

- **Back from defeat:** Ahasuerus in winter palace/lonely...
- Kings servants getting nervous...

2 Then the king's servants who attended him said: **"Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king;** **3** and let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather all the beautiful young virgins to Shushan the citadel, into the women's quarters, under the custody of Hegai the king's eunuch, **custodian of the women.** And let beauty preparations be given *them*. **4** Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This thing pleased the king, and he did so.

- **Suggestion? Mrs. Persia Beauty Contest:**

1. Call 400 Women [acc. Josephus] from 127 Provinces under Persian rule
2. **Meet in Shushan/Get them all Spoofed up**

Goal? Replace Vashti...cheer the King up

This thing pleased the king, and he did so.

5 In Shushan the citadel there was a certain Jew whose name was **Mordecai** the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite. **6** Kish had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been captured with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

Certain Jew named Mordecai?

What are Jews still doing in Babylon/Persia?

- King Nebuchadnezzar carried Southern Kingdom of Israel to Babylon in 3 waves
- **After 70 years** God allowed Jews to go back the Israel... **but most stayed?**

**Mordecai's father was one carried away
He stayed in Persia along with son Mordecai/many other Jews**

7 And Mordecai [in Persia] had brought up **Hadassah**, that is, **Esther**, his uncle's daughter, for she had **neither father nor mother**. The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

- **Esther: Persian for "star"**. Some believe from Ishtar
 1. Jewish Name **Hadassah**; i.e. "Myrtle" [later application]
 2. Esther/Mordecai are cousins
 3. Lovely/Beautiful

Esther is an orphan raised by her cousin Mordecai

When her father/mother died...Mordecai took her *as his own daughter*

8 So it was, when the king's command and decree were heard, and when many young women were gathered at Shushan the citadel, under the custody of Hegai, that **Esther also was taken to the king's palace**, into the care of Hegai the custodian of the women. 9 Now the young woman pleased [Hegai], and [Esther] **obtained his favor**; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, **and he moved her** and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women.

God begins moving Esther into the place He is preparing...

- **Esther taken to Kings Place**
- **Hegai up in Charge...**
 1. Eunuch entrusted w/women
 2. Officer of the King...most importantly **he is the Gatekeeper**
- **Ester found favor in his eyes**
 1. Abundance of Beauty Preparations
 2. Allowance/Amazon Gift Card
 3. Seven Maidservants from Kings house provided

Esther was taken v 8...Esther obtained Favor...Esther was moved? V 9 By Who?

- **Potential Problem?** Esther is Jewish...

10 Esther had **not revealed her people or family**, for Mordecai had charged her **not to reveal it.**

- **Mordecai** Wise
- **Esther** Teachable

Don't reveal you are a Jew to anyone...not yet Discretion is a trait of the Wise

- **Discretion:** heb. *tah'am* lit. to taste and act with understanding
- **Discretion:** In our dress but also...

When to speak/when not to speak. When to act/when not to act

Psalm 119:66 Teach me **good judgment** [i.e. Discretion/*tah'am*] and knowledge, For I believe Your commandments.

- **Don't reveal you belong to God?**
- **We are to be a Light and not ashamed...**

[Still...] we do recognize that there are situations where God may have us be discreet about our Christian identity - **not for the purposes** of permanently concealing it, but **waiting for the opportune moment to reveal it.** [Guzik]

11 And every day Mordecai paced in front of the court of the women's quarters, to learn of Esther's welfare and **what was happening to her.**

- **Gives advice:** Acting as the father she does not have...

Psalm 68:5 [God is...] A **father of the fatherless**, a **defender of widows**, Is God in His holy habitation. 6 God sets the **solitary in families**; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

- God knows/cares for the lonely

Psalm 27:10 When my father/my mother forsake me, Then the **Lord will take care of me.**

Psalm 147:3 He **heals the brokenhearted** And binds up their wounds.

2 Timothy 4:16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. 17 **But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me**

- Our Heavenly Father is always watching/acting on our behalf...

Every day Mordecai paced in front of the court... to learn of Esther's welfare

12 Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed **twelve months' preparation**, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with **oil of myrrh**, and six months with **perfumes** and preparations for beautifying women.

- **One Year of preparation to see the King**
 1. Six Months of Oils/Six Months of Perfumes
 2. **Beauty Preparations?** Orig. to scour, to polish

Persia was one of many countries famous for its aromatic perfumes and ancient customs for the preparations of brides, including ritualistic baths, plucking of the eyebrows, the painting

of hands and feet with henna, facial make-up, and applications of a beautifying paste all over the body...

13 Thus prepared, each young woman went to the king, and she was given **whatever she desired to take** with her from the women's quarters to the king's palace. 14 In the evening she went, and in the morning she returned to the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who kept the concubines. She would not go in to the king again unless the **king delighted in her and called for her by name.**

- **Instructions to see King: 400 one-by-one:**

1. Take whatever props you think you need
2. Go at night/Return in morning
3. Go to 2nd house of women

Last stop unless King called her back by name

- **Personal relationship with Jesus Christ:** He knows us by name...

Isaiah 43:1 ... thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have **called you by your name**; You are Mine.

1 Corinthians 8:3 But if anyone loves God, **this one is known by Him.**

She would not see the king again
Unless the king delighted in her and called for her by name

Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself also in the Lord/He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And [God] delights in his way.

Personal Relationship w/our Creator through Jesus Christ
Delighting in one another

- **Delight:** heb. *ä·nag* lit. To be soft/pliable and delicate toward, take exquisite delight
- **Here King's Delight:** heb. *khä·fats'* lit. **Take pleasure in**

She would not see the king again
Unless the king took pleasure in her *and* called for her by name

15 Now when the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his daughter, to go in to the king, she **requested nothing** but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the custodian of the women, **advised**. And Esther **obtained favor** in the sight of all who saw her.

- **Esther's turn to see King**

1. Requested no props

2. Takes only what Hegai advised [teachable/wise/humble]

- Esther Obtained favor/Received Grace in the sight of all as she arrived

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

- **Favor:** Might not like them/what say... but being near them made me feel good
People won't remember what we say as much as **how they feel** when in our presence
- **Esther obtained favor:** Ordained by God

16 So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the **seventh year** of his reign. 17 The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

- Been six years since Vashti banished/War with Greece over
- **Ahasuerus...**
 1. Loved Esther more than all 399 others
 2. She Obtained Grace in his sight
 3. He set the Crown upon her head as the new Queen of the World

Esther 1:19 fulfilled

...let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.

- Vashti refused to wear the Crown/Unworthy to wear the Crown
- Esther now is Queen of Persia...**Queen of the world**

"In prophetic symbolism the myrtle [Esther] would replace the briars and thorns of the desert, so depicting the Lord's forgiveness and acceptance of his people.

Isaiah 41:18 I will open rivers in desolate heights, And fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the **wilderness a pool of water**, And the **dry land springs of water**. 19 I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, The **myrtle and the oil tree**; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine And the box tree together, 20 That they may see and know, And consider and understand together, That **the hand of the Lord has done this**, And the Holy One of Israel has created it.

- **God the Great Replacer...** in a NY minute

Isaiah 61:3 [I will...] console those who mourn in Zion, To give them **beauty for ashes**, The **oil of joy for mourning**, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

- God replaces death with Life/darkness with Light/Hatred w/Love
- **Greatest Exchange in all of History?** Our sin in exchanged for His righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21 [God] made Him who knew no sin [Jesus] to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

He set the royal crown on Esther's head/made her queen instead of Vashti

18 Then the king made a **great feast, the Feast of Esther**, for all his officials and servants; and he proclaimed a holiday in the provinces and gave gifts **according to the generosity of a king.**

- **Feast of Ester:** Proclaimed yearly holiday
- Passed out Gifts in accordance with the King's generosity

We are not to exploit the Kings Generosity

- **God as the Replacer with regard to Christian Service**
 1. It is a privilege to work in the service of the Lord
 2. Pride will be replaced by humility...
 3. God always has His man/woman waiting

1 Corinthians 9:26 ... I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus, I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, **I myself should become disqualified.**

- Disciplined in mind, body and Spirit or become disqualified for Christian Service
- Use our gifting in humility and service or be **replaced by someone better...**

Esther 4:14 [Mordecai to Esther regarding saving the Jews] ... if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews **from another place...** Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for **such a time as this?"**

- Esther was born for such a time as this... **as are we**

Yet she/we must *choose to yield to God's sovereignty* or He will use another way
Spurgeon on God's Sovereignty over all...

Alterations and afterthoughts belong to short-sighted beings who meet with unexpected events which operate upon them to change their minds, but the Lord who sees everything from the beginning has **no such reason for shifting His ground.** [Spurgeon]

God has a plan, depend upon it: it is an insult to the Supreme intellect if we supposed that He worked at random, without plan or method. To some of us it is a truth which we never doubt, that God has one boundless purpose which embraces all things, both things which He permits and things which He ordains. Without for a moment denying the freedom of the human will, we still believe that the supreme wisdom foresees also the curious twistings of human will, and **overrules all for his own ends** [Spurgeon]

If you could have chosen your own circumstances and condition in life, you could not have made so wise a choice **as God has made for you.** [Spurgeon]

No doctrine in the whole Word of God has more excited the hatred of mankind than the truth of the **absolute sovereignty of God.** [Spurgeon]

That God rules men as a builder rules his stones and timber, is the idea of idiots, but that he **leaves them men**, in full possession of their freedom, and yet achieves the **purposes of His grace, is the truth.** [Spurgeon]

Sovereignty of God? God using His perfect foreknowledge and man's flawed choices
To accomplish His intended Purposes

- **God not mentioned** [as Song of Solomon]

- **God's intervention** in circumstances **very evident**

Am I in God's will? Are you seeking His will? Watch for Him

SUMMARY Esther Becomes Queen

II. Mordecai Discovers a Plot

19 When virgins were gathered together a **second time**, Mordecai **sat within the king's gate**. 20 Now Esther had not revealed her family and her people, just as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai **as when she was brought up by him**.

- **King's Gate:** Mordecai had a position of some influence
- Esther listened to Mordecai's advice and it is paying off...

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, and [orig. even] when he is old, he **will not depart from it**.

Ephesians 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the **training and admonition of the Lord**.

- Children do not care how much you know until they know how much you care
- Mordecai showed his love and thus was able to speak his mind

21 In those days, while Mordecai sat within the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, doorkeepers, **became furious** and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

- As Mordecai kept watch for Esther's safety...hears commotion/conspiracy
- **Doorkeepers of the King**
 1. Flare up in anger against King
 2. Plot to kill the King; i.e., Esther's husband. **All in hearing of Mordecai**

22 So the matter became known to Mordecai, who told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name. 23 And when an inquiry was made into the matter, it was confirmed, and both were hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

- Mordecai tells Ester/Esther tells King/King finds it true/Justice is served

A pointed stake is set upright in the ground, and the culprit is taken, placed on the sharp point, and then pulled down by his legs till the stake that went in at the fundament passes up through the body and comes out through the neck. A most dreadful species of punishment, in which revenge and cruelty may glut the utmost of their malice. The culprit lives a considerable time in excruciating agonies." [Clarke]

1 Peter 2:17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. **Honor the king**.

- Recorded/Preserved in a book and in presence of the King
- Ahasuerus will eventually be assassinated by his prime minister

Esther will yield to God's Sovereignty and be used mightily in His plan

1. **God not mentioned in Esther** [as Song of Solomon]
2. **God's intervention** in circumstances **very evident**

Esther was taken...obtained Favor...was moved...was called by Name. **By Who?**
How do I know if I'm God's will? Watch for Him/His ways in your Life and yield to His plan

SUMMARY Mordecai Discovers a Plot