

THE BOOK OF ESTHER – LESSON TWO

I. ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN AND MORDECAI SAVES THE KING (2:1-2).

A. Esther becomes Queen (2:1-18)

1. King remembers the disobedience of Vashti (v. 1)
2. King's servants propose a plan for all the fair virgins to be assembled for the King to choose a queen (v. 2-4).
3. Mordecai, a Jew, brings up Esther to Shushan (v.5-7)
 - a. Mordecai's family's background: a Benjamite

Kish

Shimei

Jair

Abihail (v.15)

Mordecai

Esther

- b. Hadassah's (Myrtle) or Esther's (Star) relationship with Mordecai: cousin and raised by Mordecai after the death of her parents.
4. Esther pleases the King and resides in the best place of the house of the women overseen by Hegai, the keeper of the women (v. 8-11).
 - a. King gives her things for purification and seven maidens.
 - b. Mordecai checks on Esther daily.
5. The custom of the virgins being called by the King and the next stage of being kept as concubines (v. 12-15)
 - a. After twelve months of purification (six months with oil of myrrh and six months with sweet odors) the virgin could be called by the King to come to him.
 - b. The next day she would go to the second house for women overseen by Shaashgaz.
 - c. Though authorized, Esther demands nothing, but allows Hegai to pick her ornamentation.
 - d. Esther obtains favor in the sight of all that looked upon her.
6. The King loves Esther above all the women and virgins – she is made Queen (v. 16-17).
7. King authorizes feast for Esther (v. 18)

B. Mordecai reveals a plot to two chamberlains to overtake the King (2:19-23).

1. The occasion: Virgins gathered a second time for the King – Mordecai is sitting in the king's gate (v. 19).
2. Bigthan and Teresh, keepers of threshold, were angry and plotting against the king (v. 21).
3. Mordecai overhears the plot and gives the information to Queen Esther (v. 22a)

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4. Esther makes news known to the King and an inquisition and execution follows for the history books (v. 22b-23)

QUESTIONS:

1. How much time has possibly gone by between chapter one and the events of chapter 2?
2. Describe King Ahasuerus' (Xerxes) frame of mind as he thought about the deed of Queen Vashti:
3. The plan to bring young virgins to the king was a plan to:
 - a. merely bring young maidens to the king
 - b. or, young maidens who have never had a sexual relationship?
4. Who had been carried away to captivity by Nebuchadnezzar along with Jechoniah:
 - a. Mordecai
 - b. Kish
5. Mordecai was Esther's:
 - a. brother
 - b. uncle
 - c. cousin
6. Why had Mordecai raised Esther?
7. What fact about Esther is stressed in this chapter that she refuses to reveal?
Why?
8. Who was Hegai?
How do his responsibilities differ from that of Shaashgaz?
9. In what way did the King respond to Esther?

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10. At least how long did Esther wait before being presented to the King?
11. What insight into Esther's character do you see in the statement: "*she required nothing...*" in verse 15?
12. Above which women did King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) love?
13. What blessings from the King related to his authorizing a feast for his new Queen Esther?
14. What occasion is it that finds Mordecai sitting at the gate of the King?
15. What was the responsibility of Bigthan and Teresh before the King?
16. How was the plot of Bigthan and Teresh thwarted?
17. What was involved in the Persians hanging Bigthan and Teresh on a tree?