

Esther 2

I. The REMORSE of the king (v.1)

- A. Sometime later, no timeline – king’s anger had subsided
- B. "Anger", used 5x in OT – “to put an end to something”, cf. Est 7:10
- C. Gen 8:1, first usage, God remembered Noah and the ark - "waters subsided"
- D. King remembers Vashti, her actions, his actions – “what have I done?”
- E. "decreed", root='to sever' - Vashti was cut off

II. The REPLACEMENT for Vashti (v.2-4)

- A. The plan to bring beautiful virgins from all 127 provinces
- B. Josephus writes that there were 400 virgins assembled
- C. “beautiful young virgins”, lit. kind/good, upright beautiful virgins
- D. The replacement must be “better” – **“How much better than wine is your love, and the scent of your perfumes than all spices!” (Song 4:10)**
- E. Beauty more than skin deep – Esther will fulfill all and be blessed because of it
- F. Collect all girls to the “house of women”, women’s quarters
 - 1. An area within the palace, separated by a courtyard
 - 2. 3 sets of apartments/buildings
 - 3. 1 each for the virgins, under charge of special chamberlain, the concubines also a special chamberlain, the queen and other wives
 - 4. Queen had her own personal chamberlain
- G. (v.3) “Beauty preparations” – root = “to rub, polish, scrub, cleanse” – mix a things
- H. Virgins now transition to “maiden” – now they must “please the king”

III. The RECEPTION of Esther (v.5-9)

- A. GENEAOLOGY (v.5)
 - 1. Mordecai son of Jair, Shimei, Kish a Benjamite
 - 2. Kish taken into exile by Nebuchadnezzar (597 BC)

B. GUARDIANSHIP (v.7)

1. Mordecai raised Esther as his own – older cousin
2. Idea of “guarding, bringing up” – Esther was orphaned
3. “Lovely, fair”, different word – “a beautiful form”, raw unformed beauty – also used of animals
4. “Beautiful”, that outward purely physical appearance

C. GRACE (v.9)

1. King’s command and decree – authority, both spoken and written
2. Many young girls gathered – Josephus states over 400 – at the palace
3. Hegai the eunuch in charge – Esther stands out, something about her
4. “Obtained his favor”, KJV “obtained kindness” – lit. “lifted up grace, lovingkindness”
5. “Chesedh”, one of the most important words in the OT
 - a. Why mention this? Lovingkindness or mercy
 - b. Complicated concept – hard to define in a single word
 - c. Basic idea: act of kindness, grace, mercy
 - d. The quality usually reserved for close friends, relatives
 - e. Sometimes Chesedh is one way (Dan 1:9)
 - f. Sometimes reciprocal, Rahad (Jos 2:12-14)
6. Work of the Lord behind the scenes with Esther – unexplained attitudes and actions
7. “Readily gave beauty preparations”, lit. speedily, sense of panic, hasty
 - a. Scourings with precious ointments – addition to her allowance
 - b. Received 7 “choice” maidservants for her needs – from the king
 - c. Moved all 8 to the best place in house of the women

IV. **The REVIEW by the king (v.10-16)**

A. WORRYING

1. Mordecai pacing, lit. “to walk around without any definite destination”
2. Every day for 12 months – Esther’s welfare, her “secret” – wants updates
3. Each girl had her turn with purification – 6 months myrrh, 6 months perfumes

B. WAITING

1. She goes to the king with whatever she wants from the women's house
2. Goes to the king at night, returns in the morning to concubine's house
3. Esther's time comes – takes only what the eunuch advises
4. Obtains favor from all who say her – outer and inner beauty present to all
5. (v.15) “obtain”, lit. “to exist, always existed, continue to exist” – not necessarily given over like v.9
6. All who “looked”, not just “to view” but “perceive, inspect” – she was the whole package
7. 7th year of reign, 10th month (Tebeth)

V. The REJOICING over Esther (v.17-20)

- A. King loved Esther more than the others – obtained grace and favor
- B. “Grace”, lit. grace, favor – “Favor”, lit. lovingkindness, unfailing zeal-like love – “in his sight”, set the crown on her head – she was “queened”
- C. Made a feast for Esther – palace officials and servants – great, large
- D. Proclaimed a holiday across the provinces, gave gifts according to generosity (his hand)
- E. Virgins gathered together 2nd time – Esther as queen
- F. Esther continues to obey Mordecai, even as queen – keep ethnicity hidden

VI. The REVEALING of the plot (v.21-23)

- A. The PLOT against the king
 1. “In those days”, at a specific point in time – Mordecai “sits” in the king's gate
 2. Place of prominence – was in a place to hear the threat
 3. Bigthan and Teresh “became furious” – flew into a rage over something
 4. Mordecai tells Esther, she gets the message to the king
 5. No mention of her approaching the king – king probably had her by his side continually
- B. The PROTECTION of the king

1. Mordecai gets credit for exposing the plan
2. “Made an inquiry”, like a very probing search into a matter – confirmed it
3. Both men hanged on gallows, lit. “ a tree”
4. The account written in the Book of the Chronicles