

BOOK OF  
ESTHER



## **Esther 2:1-18 ESV**

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

**2 Then the king's young men who attended him said, “Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king.**

**3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the beautiful young virgins to the harem in Susa the citadel, under custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women. Let their cosmetics be given them**

## **Esther 2:1-18 ESV**

**4 And let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti.” This pleased the king, and he did so.**

**5 Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite,**

**6 who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away.**

## **Esther 2:1-18 ESV**

**7 He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.**

**8 So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women.**

## **Esther 2:1-18 ESV**

**9 And the young woman pleased him and won his favor. And he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and her portion of food, and with seven chosen young women from the king's palace, and advanced her and her young women to the best place in the harem.**

**10 Esther had not made known her people or kindred, for Mordecai had commanded her not to make it known.**

**11 And every day Mordecai walked in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and what was happening to her.**

## **Esther 2:1-18 ESV**

**12 Now when the turn came for each young woman to go in to King Ahasuerus, after being twelve months under the regulations for the women, since this was the regular period of their beautifying, six months with oil of myrrh and six months with spices and ointments for women—**

**13 when the young woman went in to the king in this way, she was given whatever she desired to take with her from the harem to the king's palace.**

## **Esther 2:1-18 ESV**

**14 In the evening she would go in, and in the morning she would return to the second harem in custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, who was in charge of the concubines. She would not go in to the king again, unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name.**

**15 When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her.**

## **Esther 2:1-18 ESV**

**16 And when 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 women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.**

**18 Then the king gave a great feast for all his officials and servants; it was Esther's feast. He also granted a remission of taxes to the provinces and gave gifts with royal generosity.**

## **The Squeeze is On**

**The values being promoted in the Persian empire were:**

**The size of your wallet (materialism)**

**The size of your waist (appearances)**

## **The Squeeze is On**

### **Romans 12:1-2 Philipps**

**With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.**

## **The Squeeze is On**

### **1 Samuel 16:7 ESV**

**But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: **man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.**”**

### **Luke 12:15 ESV**

**And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for **one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**”**

# **Guard Your Heart and the Things that Influence Your Heart**

**Proverbs 4:23 ESV - Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.**

**Is God's Word influencing you more than worldly wisdom?**

**Are some of your closest confidants, wholehearted followers of Jesus?**

**Realize the choices we make now,  
impact our children & grandchildren**

**Why were Esther and Mordecai in the city of  
Susa?**

**The previous generations had not followed God  
wholeheartedly. They compromised and  
allowed their culture to squeeze them into it's  
mold. As a result, God allowed them to be  
conquered and exiled. He promised them, He  
would one day gather them back but not until  
they went through a period of discipline.**

## **God Still Uses Us Even though We Make Poor Choices**

**Mordecai - ordered Esther to stay silent about her faith**

**Esther - slept with the king; married an unbeliever**

**Daniel experienced this type of exile yet stood his ground.**

**In God's providence, He uses even our failures to advance His purposes.**

## **God Still Uses Us Even though We Make Poor Choices**

**People get so upset when they see stuff like this happening in the Bible.**

**Does God save those who live morally exemplary lives?**

**NO! God saves and gives His grace to those who don't deserve it and who don't fully appreciate it even after they receive it!**

**We are to pursue holiness, but we'll not be perfect this side of heaven.**

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