**The Book of Esther**

**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday, 09 June 2021**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

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**Theme:** **“A Woman for Such a Time as This”** **(Esther 4:14)**

"…Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

**Esther Chapter 2**

**(Part 2)**

**Esther 2:13**

 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 *[sha-ash-gaz]*, 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.

**Amplified**

 13 then the young woman would go before the king in this way: anything that she wanted was given her to take with her from the harem into the king’s palace.

 14 In the evening she would go in and the next morning she would return to the second harem, to the custody of Shaashgaz, *[sha-ash-gaz]*, the king’s eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. She would not return to the king unless he delighted in her and she was summoned by name.

* After the one-year preparation, the women were given instructions on how to appear before the King.
* Anything she wanted regarding clothing, jewelry, beauty supplies, etc. was granted to each of them
* The woman would wait her turn to go into the King on the evening appointed to her.
* After a night with the King, she would be taken to the second harem or house where Shaashgaz *[sha-ash-gaz]* the eunuch, who had charge over all the King’s concubines.
* The women were not to appear before the King again unless he really enjoyed her and asked for her by name.
* Mordecai was very familiar with this process which is probably the reason why in verse 11

 “…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.”

* He knew the chance Esther was taking. If she was not chosen by the King, Esther would become one of the King’s concubines.
* For a Jewish woman to become the King’s concubine in Persia, would be a horrible experience.
* What Mordecai didn’t realize was that God’s favor was upon Esther and He was directing this entire process according to His divine will.

**Esther 2:15**

 15 Now when the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail *[ab-i-hal]* 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.

**Amplified**

 15 Now as for Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai who had taken her in as his [own] daughter, when her turn came to go in to the king, she requested nothing except what Hegai the king’s eunuch [and attendant] who was in charge of the women, advised. And Esther found favor in the sight of all who saw her.

* Esther was a natural beauty which was the reason she didn’t need extra products to enhance what God already gave her.
* Esther was confident in being herself

Q = Why is it important for a Christian woman to be herself?

**A = Every Christian woman has value in the eyes of God**

* It shows how valuable she is to God
* The reason why Christian women have value is because of what God says about them and not what other people think about them.
* When Christian women try to be other than who they are, they are telling God you made a mistake—you blew it this time—you didn’t know what you were doing when you made me.

**Real self-esteem for Christian women comes from three facts:**

 **1 God created you**—God wanted you here on earth

 **2 Jesus Christ died for you**—He thought you were worth dying for

 **3 God’s Holy Spirit lives within you**—God filled you with his spirit

 because He wanted to use you for a specific purpose here on earth

**Psalms 139 (NLT)**

 13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb.
 14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.
 15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.
 16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed

**Facts to remember from Psalms 139:**

* God planned every day of our lives in our mother’s womb before we were born into this world.
* There may be accidental parents but there are no accidental children—you are not an accident.
* Your parents may not have planned you but God did.
* God chose the man and woman to create you because God knew they had the right DNA to make you who you are today as a woman.
* God created you for a purpose no one else can fulfill but you.

 “We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us to do long ago.” Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

**Pastor Rick Warren**

**Saddleback Church, California**

* **Verse 15** declared; “Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.”
* Esther had to walk through several areas to get into the King’s private chambers
* The word was already out about her physical beauty and her lovely personality.
* Everyone who saw her probably said *“Yes, she is a winner.”*
* Out of hundreds of women, Esther stood out just by being herself and nobody else.
* God’s hand was moving because God already knew what Mordecai didn’t know at the time.
* The entire Jewish Nation was about to be attacked by the evil forces of Satan
* The Hand of God was moving to put Esther on the throne next to the king
* God knew that Esther was more than her physical beauty—she had the right personality to stand in the gap for Israel against all evil.
* If Esther was not in place, many people of the Nation of Israel would had been destroyed
* By putting Esther in place, God was standing by His promise to Abraham in **Genesis 12:2-3**

 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

 3 **I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."**

* When God said “And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed,” he was speaking of Jesus Christ coming through the seed of Abraham
* And through Christ death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, all who accept Him as Lord and Savior will be blessed

**Esther 2:16-17**

 16 So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, *[te-beth]* 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.

**Amplified**

 16 So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, to his royal palace in the tenth month, that is, the month of Tebeth (Dec-Jan), in the seventh year of his reign.

 17 Now the king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she found favor and kindness with him more than all the [other] virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen in the place of Vashti.

**Note:**

 “**Tebeth**, means *“the month of sinking”* —wet, muddy month corresponding to December/January, a word probably of Persian origin, denoting the cold time of the year; used by the later Jews as denoting the 10th month of the year.”

**Hunger’s Bible Dictionary**

**Moody Press**

* When the King saw Esther, it was love at first sight—he did not have to look any further for a queen
* As far as the King was concerned, the contest was over.
* This was the providential work of God
* God was overruling the work of Satan and preparing Esther to fulfill her purpose in the palace.

**Esther 2:18**

 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.

**Amplified**

  18 Then the king held a great banquet, Esther’s banquet, for all his officials and his servants; and he made a festival for the provinces and gave gifts in accordance with the resources of the king.

* The king was so pleased he held a feast in Esther’s honor
* Biblical Scholars believe that the King proclaimed a “holiday in the provinces and gave gifts according to the generosity of a king,” was probably a remission of taxes and/or release from military service.

**From Esther 2:19 – 7:10 is the account of**

**how Mordecai overcomes Haman**

**Esther 2:19**

 19 When virgins were gathered together a second time, Mordecai sat within the king’s gate.

**Amplified**

 19 When virgins were gathered together a second time, Mordecai sat within the king’s gate.

* When virgins were gathered together a second time – The King probably separated the second best of the concubines after Esther was selected.
* Mordecai has a new position—he is now a judge.
* Biblical Scholars believe this position was granted to Mordecai through Esther
* All legal matters were settled at the city’s gate—The gate of the city is the courthouse of the town

**For example,**

* In the book of Ruth, Boaz went to the gate to have a legal matter settled
* In Genesis, Lot sat at the gate, which meant Lot had a judgeship position in Sodom before God destroyed it.

**Esther 2:19**

 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.

**Amplified**

 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.

* Even though Esther is married to the king, she still obeys the man that raised her—she never reveals her true nationality.

**Esther 2:21**

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

 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 gallows; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

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 21 In those days, while Mordecai sat within the king’s gate, two of the king’s eunuchs, Bigthan *[big-than]* and Teresh *[te-resh],* doorkeepers, became furious and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

 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.

**Note:**

 Bigthan *[big-than]* and Teresh *[te-resh]* were chamberlains of King Ahasuerus—they managed his living quarters. If anyone could assassinate the king, these two guys could. They were in close-proximity to the king.

* Mordecai was sitting at the gate and happened to hear both of these men talking about killing the king—God had Mordecai in the right place at the right time
* This also indicates the strong possibility that perhaps this was retaliation or revenge over how Queen Vashti was treated.
* Mordecai knew if they could get to the king, they could also harm Esther
* Mordecai text Esther and informed her of what was about to go down
* Esther tells her husband right away what was about to go down and that the report came from Mordecai
* There was an investigation that reveled Mordecai’s report was correct.
* They apprehended Bigthan *[big-than]* and **Teresh** *[te-resh]* and they were immediately executed by hanging.
* 23 And when an inquiry was made into the matter**, it was confirmed, and both were hanged on gallows**; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

**Note:**

 Persian execution consisted of being impaled, that is, fastened or fixed upon a stake, pierced with a sharpened stake thrust up through the body, for torture or punishment. Scholars believe it is likely that they were the originators of crucifixion.

* The incident was routinely recorded in the official chronicles of the Kingdom.
* God’s providential hand of God made it possible for Mordecai not to be rewarded immediately for saving the King’s life.