

# **Esther 2**

## **Esther 2.1-4**

**V1** - Note *v 16* = the 7<sup>th</sup> year of his reign; compare with *1.3* = the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of his reign – so 3-4 years between *Esther 1* and *Esther 2*

-Historians believe in this time, Ahasuerus fought the Greeks at Salamis (480BC) – the Persians were defeated

**-What does the Bible record about the thinking of Ahasuerus?** He remembered what he had done to Queen Vashti

-There seems to be a note of regret in his thinking – his conscience hurt him

**V2** – **The king's new plan?** To get a new queen

-some kind of beauty contest was to be held

**V3** – A eunuch was put in charge of training the women and giving them cosmetics

**V4** – The one who pleased the king the most would be the new queen

-Notice the double standard – the King wanted only a virgin, but of course he was not pure himself

## **Esther 2.5-7**

**V5-6** – A new character in the book: Mordecai (mor-de-ki)

**-Whom was he the great-grandson of?** Kish

**-Who was Kish?** – A Jew taken captive in 596 BC during the reign of Jehoiachin (the 2<sup>nd</sup> group to be captured by the Babylonians) [*Beacon Bible Comm.*, II, 678]

-This would have established Mordecai's age at about 50

**V7** – **Relationship of Mordecai and Esther?** Cousins

**-the family background of Esther?** An orphan who was being raised by Mordecai

## **Esther 2.8-11**

**V8** – **What happened to Esther?** Mordecai entered her into the contest for a new queen

-We begin to see that the Jews in Persia were not as faithful as they should have been

**V9** – **What kind of impression did Esther make on the eunuch?** A big hit – she was given a choice place

-Notice the emphasis on cosmetics again

**V10** – **Why did Esther not tell anyone that she was Jewish?** The Jews were not well liked in Persia; the Persians had some measure of anti-Semitism

**V11** – **Mordecai's attitude?** Very worried and anxious

## **Esther 2.12-16**

**V 12** – The contestants took baths in perfume, etc., for year

**V 13** – Each young lady could take anything she wanted

**V 14** – Each lady spent the night in the castle, and we assume that she met the king in the morning

-Some have thought that this meant that each lady had a sexual relationship with the king as a test in the contest

However, notice *Esther 2.17* – "*all the virgins*" – they remained virgins in this contest

-So there was no sex between Esther and King Ahasuerus before they were married

**V 15** – **What impression did Esther make?** A good impression on everyone

**V 16** – Esther was taken to the king's palace

## **Esther 2.17-20**

**V 17** – **Result for Esther?** The king loved her; she was made queen

-God was arranging things through his providence to deliver his people from the enemy

**V 18** – A big celebration in honor of Esther

**V 19** – Mordecai was made some king of judge (sitting at the gate)

**V 20** – **Why had Esther not revealed her Jewish race?** Mordecai told her not to

## **Esther 2.21-23**

**V 21** – A very interesting development – **What happened?**

-Two men tried to overthrow King Ahasuerus

**V 22** – Mordecai heard about it – **What did he do?**

-He told Esther to tell the king (in the name of Mordecai)

**V 23** – **What happened?** The two men were hanged, and the event was recorded in the king's records – a seemingly insignificant event (but nothing is insignificant if God is behind it)

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