

ESTHER IS CHOSEN TO BE THE QUEEN OF PERSIA

(Esther 2:1-18)

I. INTRODUCTION

II. THE KING'S ROYAL BANQUETS AND THE QUEEN'S DISMISSAL (1:1-22)

III. THE SEARCH FOR A NEW QUEEN

A. The Gathering and Preparation of the MOST BEAUTIFUL Virgins in the Land (2:1-14)

1. In between chapter 1 and 2 nearly _____ years have passed since Vashti was removed; during this time the king led his ill-fated Greek campaign and came home in _____ instead of honor. (v. 1)
2. King Ahasuerus was counseled to essentially hold a _____ throughout the Persian Empire. (vv. 2-4)
3. Mordecai was Esther's older _____; and his great-grandfather went into captivity with Judah's King Jehoiachin, which may indicate his family was of _____ heritage. (Esther 2:5-6; 2 Kings 24:11-12)
4. After Esther was orphaned Mordecai raised her as his _____, and for this she was forever grateful for all his love and care. (v. 7)
5. We are not told specifically how Esther (a lovely Jewess), got caught up in all this, but perhaps she had _____. (v. 8)
6. Just like Joseph and the jail keeper (Gen. 39:21-23), in the Lord's _____ He saw to it that Esther found _____ with "*Hegai the custodian of the women.*" (Esther 2:8-9)

7. At Mordecai's council Esther did _____ her Jewish ethnicity. (2:10, 20)

* How many times was Mordecai identified as a "Jew" in this book?

* In order to keep her ethnicity a secret what does this imply that Esther had to do?

* Are you a "secret agent" Christian with your unsaved relatives, friends and coworkers?

* What would it take for you to compromise your Christian morals and principles?

B. Esther is CHOSEN to be the Queen of Persia (2:15-18)

1. God's providence is evident in that "*Esther obtained _____ in the sight of _____ who saw her.*" (v. 15)

2. Finally the day had arrived when it was her turn to stand before the king; again God's providence shines through on Esther, "*and she obtained grace and _____ in _____ sight more than _____ the virgins.*" (vv. 16-17)

3. After an ugly, public divorce from Vashti, and a humiliating defeat with Greece, King Ahasuerus was enraptured with Esther and showed his exhilaration in a great _____ and proclaiming a national _____. (v. 18)

* What can you apply from this chapter today?