

Esther 2

Esther chosen Queen

1 After these things when the anger of King Ahasuerus had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her. 2 Then the king's attendants, who served him, said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king. 3 "And let the king appoint overseers in all the provinces of his kingdom that they may gather every beautiful young virgin to Susa the capital, to the harem, into the custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who was in charge of the women; and let their cosmetics be given them. 4 "Then let the young lady who pleases the king be queen in place of Vashti." And the matter pleased the king, and he did accordingly.

Beauty only skin deep is not the concern but appealing to the eye, to the flesh. Attendants know what carnal rulers desire.

Damage control *Josephus says that when his anger was over he was exceedingly grieved that the matter was carried so far, and would have been reconciled*

If brought Vashti back these men's wives would feel liberated & rebel against husbands rule. So let's get him another wife who is more agreeable, not have a mind of her own who won't rebel against the dictates of her husband.

Marriages w/ heads of state, kings & princes were commonly made by policy w/ expansion of Kings rule & power of their alliances but also w/ the consent & particular liking of the king. No one can choose for him but he can be steered in the direction of policy preference.

Attendees painting exciting picture for king to forget Vashti. Beautiful women from 127 provinces a night w/ each & after one year chose one you really like to be queen. The others cloistered away as second wives in your harem. **Josephus** said 400 virgins. How many he goes thru until Esther we don't know. Not a good fate for young girls unless liking bragging rights, luxury, attention, pampering called Kings 2nd wife.

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5 Now there was a Jew in Susa the capital whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite, ⁶who had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the captives who had been exiled with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had exiled. ⁷And he was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. Now the young lady was beautiful of form and face, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

Mordecai is of the kingly line of Saul tribe of Benjamin. Thru the years of captivity he and Esther taken captive. Not at first, it's been over 100 years in exile. Hadassah-**Myrtle** Esther-**star Ishtar**-cousins Mordecai **adopted** her.

8 So it came about when the command and decree of the king were heard and many young ladies were gathered to Susa the capital into the custody of Hegai, that Esther was taken to the king's palace into the custody of Hegai, who was in charge of the women. ⁹Now the young lady pleased him and found favor with him. So he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and food, gave her seven choice maids from the king's palace, and transferred her and her maids to the best place in the harem. ¹⁰Esther did not make known her people or her kindred, for Mordecai had instructed her that she should not make them known. ¹¹And every day Mordecai walked back and forth in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and how she fared. ¹²Now when the turn of each young lady came to go in to King Ahasuerus, after the end of her twelve months under the regulations for the women—for the days of their beautification were completed as follows: six months with oil of myrrh and six months with spices and the cosmetics for women—

Beauty & grace struck Hegai & he favored Esther...God's providence working. ***MH Even those who were the masterpieces of nature must yet have all this help from art to recommend them to a vain and carnal mind.***

Mordecai like a nervous father cared for Esther....12 months to get ready to go into the king....**and I thought my wife took a long time to get ready.**

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13 the young lady would go in to the king in this way: anything that she desired was given her to take with her from the harem to the king's palace. 14In the evening she would go in and in the morning she would return to the second harem, to the custody of Shaa-shgaz, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. She would not again go in to the king unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name. 15Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai who had taken her as his daughter, came to go in to the king, she did not request anything except what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the women, advised. And Esther found favor in the eyes of all who saw her.

Spent the night w/ the king-making her a wife. Esther not request anything...she had a natural beauty outside and inside.

*16 So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus to his royal palace in the tenth month which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. **Vashti 3rd yr now 7th yr w/o wife 4 yrs** 17And the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she found favor and kindness with him more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. 18Then the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his princes and his servants; he also made a holiday for the provinces and gave gifts according to the king's bounty. 19And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate. 20Esther had not yet made known her kindred or her people, even as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther did what Mordecai told her as she had done when under his care. 21In those days, while Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's officials from those who guarded the door, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. 22But the plot became known to Mordecai, and he told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name. 23Now when the plot was investigated and found to be so, they were both hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the Book of the Chronicles in the king's presence.*

Second gathering of second wives. Esther chosen as queen. Mordecai now in the gate, promoted because of Esther by Xerses..in official position-
porter or gate keeper. He hears a plot against the king or possibly recruited-reports it to Esther and it recorded in kings journals