

Beauty and the Beast (Esther 2:1-23)

- Search for Vashti's replacement began search for "a more compliant queen"
- Better woman, did not mean better character only young and very beautiful
- Those chosen would end up living a comfortable if pointless existence
- Empire may have changed names but it still operates today in the same way

I. Mordecai and Esther

- Mordecai & Esther introduced (2: 5-7): Mordecai descendant of Benjamin
- Related to Saul, an important fact later, carried into exile with Joachim 597BC
- Mordecai lived in Susa with his cousin Hadassah, (Esther -Persian name)

II. Drifting Down the Stream

- Esther was taken with those who were being rounded up for the king (2:8)
- This was expected in the light of her beauty and her figure mentioned (2:7)
- She worked hard to win the favor of Hegai the king's women keeper (2:12)

III. Esther and Daniel

- Daniel & his 3 friends respectfully resisted the kingdom & God honored them
- Esther under direction from Mordecai concealed her Jewish identity
- She complied & won the king's favor (16-17) thus rewarded with crown (18)

IV. A Plot Uncovered

- Mordecai uncovers a plot to kill the king & the conspirators are hanged
- 21-23 Mordecai's name recorded in the annals of the Persian kings for reward
- In the providence of God the incident is forgotten for God's later purposes

V. Disobedience & Its Consequences

- Ch 2 teaches that disobedience & sin has far reaching consequences
- Disobedience brought Mordecai's parents into exile & Mordecai didn't return
- 538BC in the decree of Cyrus many returned but many, comfortable, remained

VI. Learning from Esther

- Esther is an example that God still uses our lives after we have compromised

VII. The Prepared Bride

- What husband are we being prepared for? Christ is no despot like Ahasuerus
- Christ was 33 years on earth in contrast to Esther's 12 months of preparation
- If Christ endured all of this what will separate us from his love? Nothing!