

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How was Esther chosen to be among the virgins to appear before the king?
2. How was Esther's appearance before the king different from the other maidens? Why was Esther chosen over the other maidens?
3. What noble characteristics does Mordecai portray? How do these further God's purpose?

SUMMARY:

It was not mere coincidence that Esther was found in Babylon at this time. It was foreordained of God that she should be a source of deliverance for her people. Neither was she chosen at random, but rather her faith and obedience were the things that prepared her for God's service. She was not used immediately. Instead quite some time had to elapse before she was to be used. This time permitted her to gain the necessary favor with the king to accomplish what God wanted her to do.

It is true of us too. Sometimes we think we must be used "right now" but almost always God uses time to prove our faithfulness before He can use us. May we not get impatient, but trust that God will use us in due time if we prove ourselves worthy of His service.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

June 23, 2013

Second Quarter

ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN

LESSON TEXT: *Esther 2:1-23*

LESSON SETTING: In the palace of King Ahasuerus at Shushan.

TIME: Approximately 518 B.C.

I. ESTHER'S PREPARATION *Esther 2:1-14*

- A. Among the Captives (vs. 5-7) 2 Kings 24:10-16
- B. Special Preparation (vs. 9-12)
- C. Kindness Bestowed. Exodus 2:17; Ruth 2:16
- D. Purified. Luke 22:2; John 11:55; Acts 21:26

II. ESTHER'S PRESENTATION *Esther 2:15-16*

- A. Receives Special Favor (vs. 15) 1 Samuel 16:22; Luke 2:52
- B. Presented to the King (vs. 16)

III. ESTHER'S CORONATION *Esther 2:17-20*

- A. Especially Loved (vs. 17) Genesis 24:67; 29:20
- B. Crowned as Queen (vs. 17)
- C. Esther Obeys (vs. 20) Proverbs 1:8; 6:20; Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20

IV. MORDECAI'S BRAVERY *Esther 2:21-23*

- A. Faithful to. Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-2

GOLDEN TEXT: *GOD IS THE JUDGE: HE PUTTETH DOWN ONE, AND SETTETH UP ANOTHER.*

Psalm 75:7

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Esther 7:1-10; 8:1-14
SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Genesis 45:1-28

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People in Captivity

TOPIC: ESTHER'S VICTORY

INTRODUCTION:

In our previous lesson we discussed the possibility that Esther being chosen Queen may have been by a divine plan. Now we learn what that plan is.

A man who had advanced to a place of high position under the king had a hatred for the Jews, Haman in particular, and he used his high position to gain the king's permission to destroy the Jews (Esther 3:8-15). As the Jews began a period of mourning and fasting and prayer (Esther 4:3), Esther became aware of the plight of her people and Mordecai besought her to make intercession with the king. He told her she may have been appointed by God for this very purpose.

In advance God had worked to provide one person to be a means of saving His people. Likewise, with the Savior of the world, God had begun His plan at the time of the fall of Adam and Eve and fulfilled it many centuries later in the provision of one Jesus Christ of Nazareth. We can be sure that God has a divine plan and each moment of passing history reveals how He has worked.

In a similar way today each one of us is ordained to fit a certain part of God's plan. Let us not run ahead of Him.

Esther did fulfill God's plan, but not without much prayer and fasting for herself, her attendants and all the Jews in Shushan. The result was that God was with her to protect her in the dangerous position she was in and she became the instrument not only of deliverance, but also the instrument of judgment for the enemies of the Jews.

CENTRAL TRUTH: God exalts and uses those whom He can trust.

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *WHO KNOWETH WHETHER THOU ARE COME TO THE KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS?*

Esther 4:14

What a challenging question! It was necessary though to awaken Esther to see the plight of the Jews including herself (Esther 4:13-14).

Mordecai had besought Esther to intercede with the king for the lives of the Jews. She in turn told of the dangers involved if she would go to the king without being asked to appear. She could lose her life! After much prayer and fasting she did go to him and was graciously received and was able to accomplish the deliverance of her people and the destruction of their enemies.

How much are we like this! How often do we count the cost of Christian service and fear the obstacles that confront us? Do we too have a tendency to hold back, to refuse to serve as we ought to do? Let us become more like Esther and fast and pray so we can gain courage and faith that God will deliver us if we do that which He calls us to do.

The way dark may be that He bids me take,
Yet He lovingly that way bright will make;
Though cisterns be broken, Things visible fail,
The Word He hath spoken shall ever prevail!

Z.H. 87:4

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 24 – 30

M. Esther's Courage. Esther 5:1-8
T. Haman's Malice. Esther 5:9-14
W. Mordecai Honored. Esther 6:1-14
T. *Haman's Treason Exposed. Esther 7:1-10
F. *The Jews' Deliverance. Esther 8:1-14
S. A Feast Instituted. Esther 9:20-32
S. Mordecai's Exaltation. Esther 10:1-3

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