



Esther

for such a time as this

⁵ Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai ...⁶ who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon... ⁷ Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up (as his own daughter when her father and mother died.) This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features. ⁸ When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many girls were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai.

Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. ⁹ The girl pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven maids selected from the king's palace and moved her and her maids into the best place in the harem. ¹⁰ Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so.

¹⁷ Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

¹⁸ And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials.

...²⁰ Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality just as Mordecai had told her to do, ...²¹ During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate,



King's Gate is a large administrative building
The served as the entrance to the larger complex

...two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. ²² But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai. ²³ And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were hanged on a gallows. All this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.

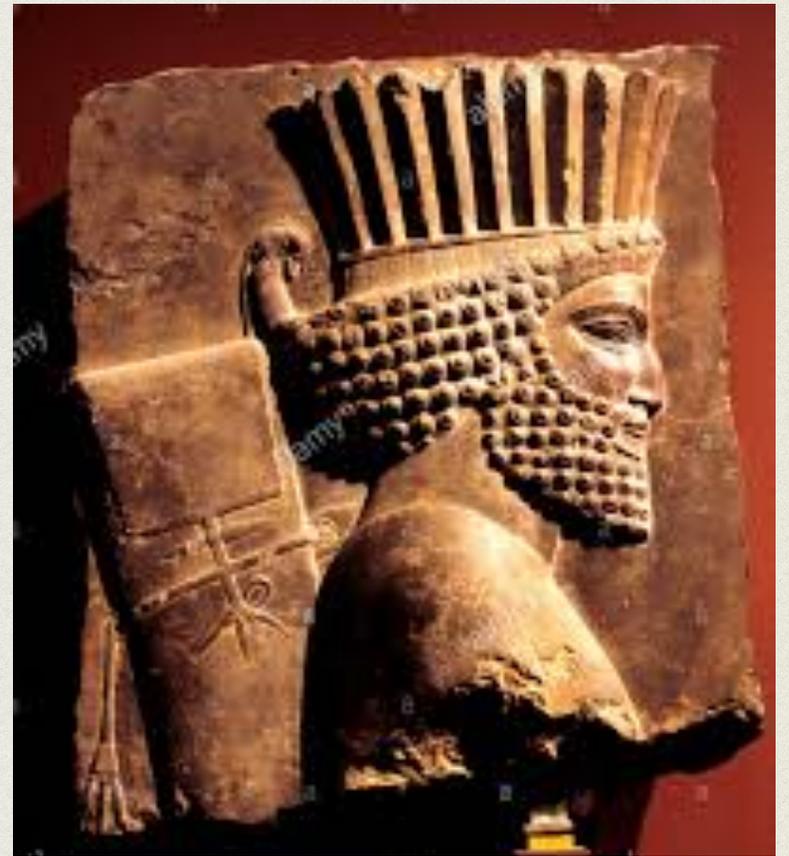






¹⁰ On the seventh day,
when King Xerxes was in
high spirits from wine,
...he commanded...¹¹ to
bring before him Queen
Vashti, wearing her royal
crown, in order to
display her beauty to the
people and nobles,

Esther 1:10,11



This young woman, who
was also known as
Esther, had a lovely
figure and was beautiful.

Esther 2:7



²² But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai.

Esther 2:22



That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him.

² It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.

³ "What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked. "Nothing has been done for him," his attendants answered.

Esther 6:1-3





For a full 180 days
he displayed the
vast wealth of his
kingdom and the
splendor and glory
of his majesty.

Esther 1:4



For When the king's order
and edict had been
proclaimed, many young
women were brought to the
citadel of Susa and put
under the care of Hegai. ...
¹² Before a young woman's
turn came to go in to King
Xerxes, she had to complete
twelve months of beauty
treatments prescribed for
the women, six months with
oil of myrrh and six with
perfumes and cosmetics.

Esther 2:8,12





Esther ...was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. ⁹ She pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven female attendants selected from the king's palace and moved her and her attendants into the best place in the harem.

¹⁰ Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. Esther 2:8-10



The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7



“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ...to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or blemish but holy and blameless.”

Ephesians 5:25,27

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.
18 No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. John 10:11,18



1. I get a "real definition of beauty.

"He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. Isaiah 53:2

1. I get a "real definition of beauty.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed ...and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:5,6

1. I get a "real definition of beauty.

"He Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, Isaiah 53:10



3. I become "internally beautiful.

"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2



