



### **Esther 2:1-4**

After these things, when the anger of King Ahasuerus had abated, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her. <sup>2</sup>Then the king's young men who attended him said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king. <sup>3</sup>And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the beautiful young virgins to the harem in Susa the citadel, under custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women. Let their cosmetics be given them. <sup>4</sup>And let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This pleased the king, and he did so.

### **After these things...**

- \_\_\_\_\_ years after chapter 1
- Military campaign in \_\_\_\_\_
- The King's anger had abated
  - He remembered Vashti
  - What \_\_\_\_\_ had done
  - What was \_\_\_\_\_ against her
- Regrets??

### **The “Contest”**



- Advice from Attendants
  - Beautiful young virgins
  - Gathered from \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- Brought to Susa
  - Beauty \_\_\_\_\_
  - The winner is... \_\_\_\_\_
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### **Esther 2:5-7**

<sup>5</sup>Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite, <sup>6</sup>who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away. <sup>7</sup>He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

### **Intro to Mordecai & Esther**

#### **Mordecai's Ancestry**

- Son of Kish
- A Benjaminite

#### A “problem” with Verse 6

- Carried away from \_\_\_\_\_
- With \_\_\_\_\_
- By \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Esther**

- Also called \_\_\_\_\_
- Mordecai's \_\_\_\_\_
- An orphan
- Beautiful figure, lovely to look at
- Raised by Mordecai

**Esther 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup>So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women. <sup>9</sup>And the young woman pleased him and won his favor. And he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and her portion of food, and with seven chosen young women from the king's palace, and advanced her and her young women to the best place in the harem.

**The Plan in Motion**

- Many women taken into the King's palace
- Esther "taken"
- Hegai, the eunuch
  - In charge of the King's women
  - Esther pleased him, won his favor
  - He provides for Esther

**Esther 2:10-11**

<sup>10</sup>Esther had not made known her people or kindred, for Mordecai had commanded her not to make it known. <sup>11</sup>And every day Mordecai walked in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and what was happening to her.

What are some reasons why Esther did not want to reveal her Jewish heritage?

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**Camouflage:** The disguising of military personnel, equipment, and installations by painting or covering them to make them \_\_\_\_\_ with their surroundings.

**Esther 2:12-14**

<sup>12</sup>Now when the turn came for each young woman to go in to King Ahasuerus, after being twelve months under the regulations for the women, since this was the regular period of their beautifying, six months with oil of myrrh and six months with spices and ointments for women—  
<sup>13</sup>when the young woman went in to the king in this way, she was given whatever she desired to take with her from the harem to the king's palace.  
<sup>14</sup>In the evening she would go in, and in the morning she would return to the second harem in custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, who was in charge of the concubines. She would not go in to the king again, unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name.

**A Night with the King**

- \_\_\_\_\_ to prepare
- She could take whatever she wanted
- \_\_\_\_\_ from one "harem" to another
- She would not go to the King again unless \_\_\_\_\_

**Esther 2:15-17**

<sup>15</sup>When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her. <sup>16</sup>And when Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, <sup>17</sup>the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

**Esther Pleases**

- The King loved Esther
- Esther won \_\_\_\_\_
- Esther made \_\_\_\_\_