

Summary

1. Mordecai

- A. saves Esther,
- B. vigilant
- C. virtuous
- D. attentive
- E. supportive
- F. never leaves her, day and night

2. Esther

- A. orphaned
- B. immediately adopted by Mordecai
- C. virgin, virtuous, beautiful
- D. obedient, submissive
- E. trusts Mordecai
- F. trusts Hegai (also looks out for her)
- G. not materialistic (no need for things)
- H. chosen by King
- I. then made more beautiful
- J. ambassador, represents Mordecai

3. King

- A. needs new queen
- B. sees Esther's beauty
- C. sees Esther's lack of need for things
- D. selects Esther
- E. trusts Esther

F. listens to Esther

Observations

1. **All the women want to take things, but Esther trusts Mordecai and trusts Hagai and accordingly has no need of things. This fact was most likely not lost on the King.**
2. **Long periods of time pass during the events of this story.**
3. **In the last three verses of the chapter, the plot moves relatively quickly, in comparison with the foregoing verses, which are more descriptive or provide historical backdrop.**
4. **The chapter moves slowly and then quickly at the end.**
5. **This is a story about a seemingly-insignificant Jew who becomes commander of one of the greatest countries in the world. There are many such stories in the Bible.**

- A. Joseph
- B. Moses
- C. Daniel
- D. Mordecai
- E. Boaz

Esther 2:1-23 (Annotated)

1. King initiates search for new Queen. Description of search process.

A. King misses Vashti

. 1 After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.

B. Servants console King and advise starting a search process for the new Queen.

. 2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:

C. Servants give strategy for search

✠ Esther 2: Esther Marries the King

. *3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them:*

D. Servants give picture of result. King likes.

. *4 And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.*

2. Description of Mordecai and his ancestry

A. Genealogy

. *5 ¶ Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;*

B. War refugee

. *6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.*

C. Guardian and Protector of Esther

. *7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.*

3. Back to the story. Many virgins gathered. Esther is preferred.

A. Many maidens are brought to Hegai.

. *8 ¶ So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.*

B. Hegai accepts and prefers Esther

. *9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's*

† Esther 2: Esther Marries the King

house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.

4. Esther protects her identity and Mordecai protects Esther.

A. Esther protects her ancestral identity.

. 10 Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.

B. Mordecai watches over Esther.

. 11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.

5. More rules for the search process (Plot moving slowly)

A. One year of preparation is required before audience with King.

. 12 ¶ Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;)

B. Women may take anything they wish from their house with them when they visit the King.

. 13 Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house.

C. Any woman attending the King would never see him again unless the King delighted in her and called her by name.

. 14 In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name.

6. Back to the story. King immediately crowns Esther and decrees a huge feast.

A. Esther requires nothing but what Hagai advises. Everyone around likes her. We learn Esther's father's name (Abihail, father of strength).

✠ Esther 2: Esther Marries the King

. *15 ¶ Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.*

B. Esther is taken to the King. It has been several years now. It is now the seventh year of his reign.

. *16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.*

C. King is delighted by Esther. He crowns her immediately.

. *17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.*

D. King makes a great feast and, throughout his kingdom, proclaims a national holiday and gives gifts.

. *18 Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.*

7. Esther protects her identity, and Mordecai is in the gate.

Verses 19-20 kind of mirror 10-11. The plot is about to go very fast now.

A. Mordecai sat in the king's gate, most probably looking after Esther as best he could from there.

. *19 And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate.*

B. Esther continues to protect her ancestral identity.

. *20 Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.*

8. Mordecai, in the gate, overhears an assassination plot and works through Esther to uncover it before the King who hangs the perpetrators, and the event is written in the annals of the kingdom.

A. Two of the King's doormen plot against the King.

✠ Esther 2: Esther Marries the King

- . *21 ¶ In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.*
- B. Mordecai overhears them, tells now-Queen Esther, and Esther forwards the information to the King in Mordecai's name.
 - . *22 And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name.*
- C. King investigates, verifies, and hangs them, and it was written in the King's history.
 - . *23 And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.*