

ESTHER
Pt. 2 – “A New Queen and a Plot to Kill”
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Esther 2:1-4 (NIV)

^[1] Later when the anger of King Xerxes had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her.

^[2] Then the king's personal attendants proposed, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king.

^[3] Let the king appoint commissioners in every province of his realm to bring all these beautiful girls into the harem at the citadel of Susa.

Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let beauty treatments be given to them.

Esther 2:8-10 (NIV)

^[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.

Esther 2:12 (NIV)

^[12] Before a girl'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 2:15-17 (NIV)

^[15] When the turn came for Esther (the girl Mordecai had adopted) to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested.

And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.

^[16] She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal residence in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

^[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.

Mordecai Uncovers a Conspiracy

Esther 2:19-23 (NIV)

^[19] When the virgins were assembled a second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate.

^[20] But Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality just as Mordecai had told her to do,

for she continued to follow Mordecai's instructions as she had done when he was bringing her up.

^[21] During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthana and Teresh, 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.

Haman's Plot to Destroy the Jews

Esther 3:5-10 (NIV)

^[5] When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged.

^[6] Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

^[7] In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, they cast the *pur* (that is, the lot) in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar.

^[8] Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom

whose customs are different from those of all other people and who do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them.

^[9] If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will put ten thousand talents of silver into the royal treasury for the men who carry out this business."

^[10] So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

The Tribal Feud

Mordecai:

A Benjamite descendant of Saul

Haman an Agagite

Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-16)

**King Saul received orders
to kill all the Amalekites (King Agag)**

I Samuel 15

Haman the Agagite

Esther 3:13 (NIV)

^[13] Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—

young and old, women and little children--on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.