

Esther - God Save the Queen

Esther 2 ❖ Romans 8:28

"In this short Bible book, Esther's name appears fifty-five times. The name of no other woman in the Bible is recorded so often."
("All the Women of the Bible," Edith Deen, p. 147)

Who's Who

Xerxes: the powerful and ruthless _____ of Persia (modern-day _____) from 486-465 B.C.

Vashti: the beautiful and brave _____ of Persia who is deposed after she refuses to be _____ before the King's drunken guests

Mordecai: a _____ official in the King's court; archaeologists discovered a cuneiform _____ confirming he was an accountant in Xerxes' court

Esther: a young _____ orphan who was adopted and raised by her _____ Mordecai; her Persian name means " _____ "

Hegai: the eunuch in charge of the King's _____

Later ...

" _____ these things ..." (Esther 2:1 KJV).

History tells us that Xerxes launched a disastrous campaign against his enemies, the _____, and the Persian army was soundly _____.

"When the _____ of King Xerxes had subsided," he regretted what he had done, but couldn't _____ his decree. So his servants suggested he find a new _____.

From Obscurity to Notoriety

A _____ began for the most _____ woman in every province in Persia.

Years ago, in my first pastorate, I was a member of the Rotary Club. Every year we were in charge of the local _____ pageant. Rene and I were always in charge of finding the _____.

There was only one _____ in the Miss Persia contest, and his name was Hegai. Esther, who "was _____ in form and features (v. 7) won his _____. He provided her with twelve _____ of beauty treatments, special _____ and seven _____. He also moved Esther and her maids into the _____ place in the harem" (v. 9).

"Esther did not reveal her _____ and _____ background, because Mordecai had _____ her to do so" (v. 10 and v. 20).

After all the women had received "six months with _____ of myrrh and six months with _____ and _____ (v. 12), _____ won the favor of _____ who saw her" (v. 15).

"Now the King was _____ to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his _____ and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a _____ on her head and made her _____ instead of Vashti" (v. 17).

"And the King gave a great _____ for _____ for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a _____ throughout the provinces and distributed _____ with royal liberality" (v. 18).

God Is Always at Work

"And we know that in _____ things, God _____ for the _____ of those who _____ Him, who have been called according to His _____" (Romans 8:28).

In a _____ palace God _____ arranged events so that a person of His _____ would come to power to save His _____.

"Mordecai found out about a plot to _____ King Xerxes, and told Queen _____, who in turn told the King, giving _____ to Mordecai. The conspirators were _____" (vv. 22-23).

Wickedness is working over time in our world today, but God is _____ working _____ behind the scenes for His _____.

Takeaway

_____ beauty is desirable, but _____ beauty is even more desirable.

God always works through _____ for the good of His _____.

