

"A Queen Chosen"

Esther 2

Part 3

Introduction: In our study of the book of Esther we have been looking at the hand of God behind the scenes as He was working to make provisions to save the Jews from certain death. Last week I raised a question that I want to go back to.

"Why would Mordecai enter Esther in this Persian beauty pageant?"

As I read Esther 2:8 and I look at word meanings I am convinced that Mordecai most likely did not enter her but instead she was "taken" without a choice.

Notice Esther 2:8

This verse tells us that "**Esther was brought also**". The word brought here shines some much-needed light upon the situation. Notice how the word is defined by Blue Letter Bible:

"To take, get, fetch, lay hold of, seize, receive, acquire, buy, bring, marry, take a wife, snatch, take away."

As I look at the meanings of the word, I come to realize that Esther was most likely taken by the king's men as they searched for young virgins to enter the contest. This entire situation was the result of sinful man carrying out the desires of the flesh, but God would use it all to accomplish His purpose. Those who would take Esther would be held accountable for their actions someday. It may not be until the Great White Throne Judgment but there will be a day of reckoning.

Application:

There is encouragement for our lives in what happened to Esther. She would be taken against her will, but God would use the situation for her benefit as well as all the Jews in Babylon. There are many Biblical examples of people experiencing difficulty at the hands of sinful people and the end result being a blessing.

Think about Joseph and how he suffered at the hands of sinners. His brothers sold him into slavery. Potipher's wife falsely accused him and had him placed in prison for several years. God however used all of his hardships to bring about a blessing for the entire Nation of Israel.

Daniel and his friends were taken in the captivity and found themselves in many high pressure and difficult situations. But in all of it God was glorified.

Let us understand and always remember that the unifying theme in the Bible is THE GLORY OF GOD. God's great purpose is to make Himself known to the world. This is the great emphasis of the Bible. God's great concern is to glorify Himself and to make Himself known to all men.

Joshua 4:23-24

²³ For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over:

²⁴ That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.

1 Samuel 17:45-46

⁴⁵ Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

⁴⁶ This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

1 Kings 8:43

⁴³ Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

Ezekiel 36:22-23

²² Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

²³ And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

These are just a few verses that help us to see the unifying theme of the Bible, which is that **GOD WILL BE GLORIFIED**, meaning that in the events that take place He will be made known.

This is what was happening in the days of Esther. Esther was "TAKEN" against her will and the people who took her would be held accountable. God would then use the situation to glorify Himself as this would eventually lead to the salvation of the Jews.

In our lives there are situations that arise that we have no control over. They are often very difficult trials to go through. They can be painful, and they can be heart breaking at times. They may leave us scarred for the rest of our lives. They may be brought about by the choices of sinful people, or they may just be the results of living in a fallen world. But let us never forget that God has permitted them so that He will be glorified in whatever takes place.

John 11:1-4

Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

² (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

³ Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

⁴ When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

The end result must be for our good based upon what Romans 8:28 tells us. So, our response is to walk by faith when the pressure, the affliction, the trials and the storms enter our lives. There is no better verse than Psalm 46:10 when we are faced with a situation that we have absolutely no control over.

Psalm 46:10

¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Notice the words of Joseph Caryl on this verse:

"Be still, and know that I am God; as if the Lord had said, Not a word, do not strive nor reply; whatever you see, hold your peace; know that I, being God, give no account of any of my matters."

Notice Esther 2:11-14

Mordecai paced back and forth being anxious concerning Esther. Each young girl went through one year of spa treatment before she was brought before the king. Each one then spent one night with the king as he sought to satisfy his own sexual desires. If the young girl was not chosen by the king, she then became a part of the king's concubines. In other words, she became a part of the king's harem. She might never again be called into the presence of the king.

Let us notice what Easton's Bible Dictionary says concerning concubines:

This word "denotes a female united in marriage to a man, but in a relation inferior to that of a wife. Among the early Jews, from various causes, the difference between a wife and a concubine was less marked than it would be amongst us. The concubine was a wife of secondary rank. There are various laws recorded providing for their protection (Ex. 21:7; Dt 21:10-14), and setting limits to the relation they sustained to the household to which they belonged (Ge 21:14; 25:6). They had no authority in the family, nor could they share in the household government. The immediate cause of concubinage might be gathered from the marriage histories of Abraham and Jacob (Ge 16:30). But in process of time the custom of concubinage degenerated, and laws were made to restrain and regulate it (Ex 21:7-9). Christianity has restored the sacred institution of marriage to its original character, and concubinage is ranked with the sins of fornication and adultery (Mt 19:5-9; 1Cor 7:2).

If the young girls were not chosen to be the queen, they were not just sent back into society, but they were made concubines/secondary wives of the king. They were not the king's first choice and no one else could take them to be their wife. It was as if the king did not want them and neither did he want anyone else to have them. He is not concerned that the young girls could never marry, and some might never be called forth from the second harem.

Notice Esther 2:15

When I read this verse, I see the wisdom which Esther possessed. She trusted Hegai to give her the best advice. He knew the king better than anyone so he would certainly know what Esther needed to win the king's favor.

Application:

There are two verses that come to my mind here and then an application.

1 Corinthians 10:11-12

¹¹ *Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

¹² *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

What we are looking at in the story of Esther is for our admonition. In the case of Esther in 2:15 and how she trusted Hegai, the lesson for us is we must be sure to listen to those who give us sound advice. We may think we know better and that we have all the answers to life's decisions, but I can assure you we do not. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:12 to be careful of thinking you have all the answers and you do not need the advice of those who have lived on the path you are walking. You think you will stand but you will fall if you are not willing to learn from others.

If someone has given you sound Godly advice, then you had better listen. God has placed them in your life to point you in the right direction and possibly to save you a great deal of heart ache which may come from a poor decision made according to the desires of the flesh.

Proverbs 11:14

¹⁴ *Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.*

Proverbs 15:22

²² *Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.*

Proverbs 20:15

¹⁵ *There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.*

Proverbs 24:5-6

⁵ *A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.*

⁶ *For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.*

Notice Esther 2:16-17

Esther is crowned Queen approximately 4 years after the events of chapter 1. Because of God, she has found grace in the eyes of the king. God has worked all the events in order that He would be glorified.

Application:

There is something in these verses that bring a lesson for our lives. God did not rush to get Esther in the position of queen. It took roughly four years for God's plan to come together. He did not make haste, but His timing was perfect.

This is a Truth that we need to keep in mind as we pass through this world. God has a set time for everything. He does not panic, nor does He rush. He will work His plan in such a way that He gets all the glory.

Genesis 17:19-21

19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

Genesis 21:1-5

And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.

4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him.

5 And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.

Conclusion:

God waited until Abraham and Sarah were well beyond the child bearing years to allow her to become pregnant. This would ensure that God was glorified and not Abraham. There was a set time and Isaac would not be born until that set time. To everything in our lives there is a set time and God will bring His plan for you together at the set time. Let us be careful not to try to rush His timing for then we only cause heartache for ourselves and others around us.