

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Esther Chapter 2 — Esther Becomes Queen and Mordecai Uncovers a Plot

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Esther Chapter 2 continues the story immediately after Queen Vashti's removal.

King Ahasuerus has made his decree, but now the question becomes: **Who will become the new queen?**

The answer is Esther—a young Jewish woman who had been orphaned and raised by her cousin Mordecai.

From a human perspective, Esther's circumstances appear unlikely:

- She was an orphan.
- She was a Jewish exile.
- She was living under Persian authority.
- She was taken into the royal harem.
- She had no obvious political power.

Yet God was positioning her exactly where she needed to be.

At the same time, Mordecai discovers a plot against the king. His faithfulness seems insignificant at first, but the event is carefully recorded in the royal chronicles. Later, that record will become extremely important.

Esther Chapter 2 therefore teaches us a major principle:

God can position ordinary people in extraordinary places and use seemingly small acts of faithfulness for purposes far greater than they can see.

I. THE KING REMEMBERS VASHTI

Esther 2:1 — The King's Anger Has Cooled

Verse 1

“Some time later, after King Ahasuerus' anger had cooled down, he remembered what Queen Vashti had done and the decree that had been issued against her.”

The anger of the king had passed.

But now he remembered Vashti and the decree.

This demonstrates an important reality about human emotions.

Anger may be intense in the moment, but eventually the emotion passes.

The consequences of decisions made during anger, however, can remain.

Cross References

Psalms 103:9

“He will not always accuse us, and He will not remain angry forever.”

God's anger is not like uncontrolled human anger. God is patient and merciful.

Micah 7:18

“Who is a God like You, who forgives sin and forgives the rebellion of the people who belong to Him? You do not stay angry forever, because You delight in showing mercy.”

God delights in mercy.

Genesis 8:1

“But God remembered Noah and all the animals and livestock that were with him in the ark. God caused a wind to blow across the earth, and the waters began to go down.”

When Scripture says God “remembered,” it does not mean God had forgotten. It means God turned His attention toward carrying out His purpose.

Crawford Commentary

The king remembered Vashti.

But God's remembering is different.

When God remembers someone, He acts according to His covenant and purpose.

This becomes important throughout Scripture.

Spiritual Principle

Human beings may forget, but God never loses sight of His purposes.

II. THE SEARCH FOR A NEW QUEEN

Esther 2:2 — Beautiful Young Women Are Sought

Verse 2

“Then the king's personal attendants suggested, ‘Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king.’”

The king's servants proposed a solution.

A search would be conducted throughout the empire for young women who could potentially become queen.

This was part of the culture and political structure of the Persian royal court.

Cross References

1 Kings 1:3

“So they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful young woman. They found Abishag from Shunem and brought her to the king.”

This shows that royal courts sometimes sought young women to serve the king.

Genesis 24:16

“The young woman was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever slept with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came back up.”

Rebekah's story demonstrates that beauty and virginity were significant cultural considerations in marriage arrangements.

1 Samuel 16:12

“So Jesse sent for him and brought him in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, ‘Rise and anoint him; this is the one.’”

David's outward appearance was noticed, but God ultimately looked at his heart.

Crawford Commentary

Esther's beauty becomes part of the circumstances that bring her into the palace.

But beauty alone does not explain Esther's significance.

Her greatest importance comes from the position God is preparing her to occupy.

Spiritual Principle

God can use natural abilities and circumstances as part of His greater purpose.

III. OFFICIALS ARE SENT THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE

Esther 2:3 — Esther Enters the Royal Harem

Verse 3

“Let the king appoint officers in every province of the empire to gather these young women into the royal harem at the fortress of Susa. They will be placed under the care of Hegai, the king’s eunuch who oversees the women, and they should be given beauty treatments.”

The search would be organized throughout the empire.

The women would be brought to Susa and placed under Hegai's supervision.

Cross References

Daniel 1:3

“Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief official, to bring some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility.”

Daniel also describes young people being brought into royal service.

Daniel 1:11

“Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.”

Daniel's experience demonstrates the structure and supervision within a royal training environment.

Genesis 41:34

“Let Pharaoh appoint officials over the land and collect a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.”

Joseph's story demonstrates the use of appointed officials throughout a kingdom.

Crawford Commentary

The empire had a sophisticated administrative system.

But behind that system, God was arranging circumstances that would eventually place Esther exactly where she needed to be.

IV. THE FUTURE QUEEN

Esther 2:4 — The Woman Who Pleases the King

Verse 4

“Then let the young woman who pleases the king be made queen in place of Vashti.’ This idea pleased the king, and he followed their advice.”

The king approved the plan.

Human beings were making decisions.

But God's providence was already moving.

Cross References

1 Samuel 16:1

“The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.’”

God had already chosen David before Samuel publicly anointed him.

Proverbs 21:1

“The king's heart is like a stream of water in the Lord's hand. He directs it wherever He wants.”

God can direct the decisions of rulers.

1 Samuel 15:28

“Samuel said to Saul, ‘The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to someone who is better than you.’”

God can remove one person and raise another according to His purposes.

Crawford Commentary

Esther was not accidentally becoming queen.

God's providence was positioning her.

The people involved did not understand the whole picture.

God did.

V. MORDECAI, A JEWISH MAN IN SUSAN

Esther 2:5 — Mordecai Is Introduced

Verse 5

“Now in the fortress of Susa lived a Jewish man named Mordecai, son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite.”

The narrative now introduces one of the central figures of the book.

Mordecai was Jewish and belonged to the tribe of Benjamin.

Cross References

1 Samuel 9:1

“There was a prominent man from the tribe of Benjamin named Kish, son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah. He was the son of a Benjamite and was a wealthy and respected man.”

The tribe of Benjamin had an important place in Israel's history.

Philippians 3:5

“I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded Israelite from the tribe of Benjamin, a true Hebrew if there ever was one. I was a Pharisee.”

Paul also identified himself with the tribe of Benjamin.

1 Chronicles 8:1

“Benjamin's first son was Bela, the second was Ashbel, the third was Aharah.”

The genealogical records establish Benjamin's place among the tribes of Israel.

Crawford Commentary

Mordecai's Jewish identity becomes extremely important later in the book.

He is living in a foreign empire, but his ancestry remains part of his identity.

Spiritual Principle

Where you live does not determine whom you belong to.

VI. MORDECAI'S FAMILY HISTORY

Esther 2:6 — Exile From Jerusalem

Verse 6

“He had been taken from Jerusalem into exile by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon when King Jeconiah of Judah was taken into captivity.”

Mordecai's family history is connected to the Babylonian exile.

His people had experienced national disaster.

Jerusalem had fallen.

Many Jews had been taken into captivity.

Cross References

2 Kings 24:15

“Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. He also took the king's mother, wives, officials, and other important people of Jerusalem into exile.”

The exile was a devastating event in Israel's history.

2 Chronicles 36:10

“In the spring of the year, King Nebuchadnezzar sent for him and brought him to Babylon, along with the valuable articles from the Temple. He made Jehoiachin's relative Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.”

Babylon removed people and treasures from Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 24:1

“After King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had taken Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, captive, along with the officials, skilled workers, and craftsmen of Jerusalem and brought them to Babylon, the Lord showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of the Temple of the Lord.”

Jeremiah also describes the exile.

Crawford Commentary

Mordecai's family had experienced displacement and loss.

Yet generations later, one of his descendants would be positioned in the Persian royal court.

Spiritual Principle

A painful past does not prevent God from having a purposeful future.

VII. ESTHER'S ORIGIN

Esther 2:7 — An Orphan Raised by Mordecai

Verse 7

“Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, also called Esther, who had neither father nor mother. She was very beautiful and lovely in form. When her parents died, Mordecai adopted her and raised her as his own daughter.”

This verse introduces Esther.

Her Hebrew name was Hadassah.

Her Persian name was Esther.

But perhaps the most important fact about her background is that she was an orphan.

Mordecai took responsibility for her.

Cross References

Psalms 27:10

“Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will take care of me.”

God cares for those who are vulnerable and alone.

James 1:27

“Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their suffering and refusing to let the world corrupt you.”

God places special importance on caring for the vulnerable.

Deuteronomy 10:18

“He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow and loves the foreigner living among you, giving them food and clothing.”

God's character includes compassion for the vulnerable.

Crawford Commentary

Esther's story begins with loss.

She had no father or mother.

But she was not abandoned.

Mordecai stepped into a parental role.

And ultimately, God's providence was over her life.

Spiritual Principle

What people may see as weakness or disadvantage does not limit what God can accomplish through a person's life.

VIII. ESTHER IS BROUGHT INTO THE PALACE

Esther 2:8 — Esther Is Among the Young Women

Verse 8

“When the king's command was proclaimed and many young women were brought to the fortress of Susa under Hegai's care, Esther was among them.”

Esther did not enter the palace because she was seeking political power.

She was brought into the royal system as part of the king's search.

Her life was changing rapidly.

Cross References

Daniel 1:9

“Now God had caused the chief official to show favor and compassion toward Daniel.”

God's providence was also evident in Daniel's experience within a foreign royal court.

Genesis 39:4

“Joseph found favor in Potiphar's eyes and became his personal attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household and entrusted everything he owned to him.”

Joseph found favor even while living in circumstances he did not choose.

Genesis 41:37

“Joseph's plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials.”

God eventually raised Joseph from imprisonment to a position of great authority.

Crawford Commentary

Esther's circumstances were beyond her control.

Yet God was not beyond control.

Key Truth

God can work through circumstances that we did not choose.

IX. ESTHER FINDS FAVOR

Esther 2:9 — Hegai Favors Esther

Verse 9

“Esther pleased Hegai and gained his favor. He quickly provided her with beauty treatments and special food. He assigned her seven attendants selected from the palace and moved her and her maids to the best quarters in the harem.”

Esther immediately received favor from Hegai.

She was treated well.

She received special food and accommodations.

Cross References

Genesis 39:21

“But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him faithful love. He gave him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.”

God gave Joseph favor even in difficult circumstances.

Proverbs 3:4

“Then you will find favor and a good reputation in the sight of God and people.”

Favor is connected with godly character.

Nehemiah 1:11

“Lord, please hear my prayer and the prayers of Your servants who delight in honoring You. Please give me success today by making the king favorable toward me.”

Nehemiah also depended upon God to give him favor with the king.

Crawford Commentary

Favor does not always mean life will become easy.

Sometimes God gives favor because He is preparing someone for an assignment.

Esther's favor was preparing her for her future responsibility.

Spiritual Principle

Favor can be part of God's preparation for future responsibility.

X. ESTHER KEEPS HER IDENTITY SECRET

Esther 2:10 — Esther Does Not Reveal Her Jewish Identity

Verse 10

“Esther did not reveal her nationality or family background because Mordecai had instructed her not to.”

Mordecai instructed Esther to keep her Jewish identity private.

This becomes very important later in the story.

Cross References

Genesis 45:1

“Joseph could no longer control himself in front of everyone who was there, so he shouted, ‘Have everyone leave my presence!’ So no one was with Joseph when he revealed his identity to his brothers.”

Joseph also had a moment when his identity was revealed at a critical time.

Matthew 10:16

“Look, I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. So be as wise as snakes and as innocent as doves.”

Jesus instructed His followers to combine wisdom with innocence.

Proverbs 11:13

“A gossip goes around telling secrets, but a trustworthy person keeps a confidence.”

Not every fact must be revealed to everyone at every moment.

Crawford Commentary

This verse teaches us about discretion.

There is a difference between honesty and revealing every private detail to everyone.

Wisdom recognizes that some information must be handled carefully.

XI. MORDECAI WATCHES OVER ESTHER

Esther 2:11 — Mordecai Checks on Esther Every Day

Verse 11

“Every day, Mordecai walked near the courtyard of the women's quarters to find out how Esther was doing and what was happening to her.”

Mordecai continued to care for Esther.

Even though she was inside the royal complex, he wanted to know that she was safe.

Cross References

Genesis 37:14

“Jacob said to Joseph, ‘Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are doing, and then come back and tell me how things are going.’ So Jacob sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and Joseph went to Shechem.”

Joseph was sent to check on his brothers.

Philippians 2:20

“I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare.”

Timothy demonstrated genuine concern for others.

1 Samuel 17:18

“Take these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are doing and bring back some evidence that they are safe.”

David was also sent to check on his brothers.

Crawford Commentary

Mordecai did not simply raise Esther and then abandon her.

He continued watching over her.

Spiritual Principle

Godly care continues even when circumstances change.

XII. TWELVE MONTHS OF PREPARATION

Esther 2:12 — Preparation Before the King

Verse 12

“Before a young woman could go to the king, she had to complete twelve months of beauty treatments—six months with oil of myrrh and six months with perfumes and other cosmetics.”

Esther and the other young women underwent an extended period of preparation.

Cross References

Leviticus 12:4

“Then the woman must continue in purification from her bleeding for another thirty-three days. She must not touch anything holy or enter the sanctuary until her time of purification is completed.”

The Old Testament contains various periods of preparation and purification.

Ruth 3:3

“Now wash, put on perfume, and dress in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but do not let Boaz know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking.”

Ruth prepared herself before approaching Boaz.

Ezekiel 16:9

“I bathed you with water and washed the blood from you. Then I put oil on you.”

Oil was associated with cleansing and preparation.

Crawford Commentary

Preparation can be lengthy.

God sometimes prepares people long before they understand why they are being prepared.

Spiritual Principle

Preparation may take much longer than the moment for which we are being prepared.

XIII. ESTHER'S CHOICE

Esther 2:13 — She Could Take What She Wanted

Verse 13

“When it was her turn to go to the king, she was allowed to take anything she wanted from the harem.”

The women were given the opportunity to choose what they would take with them.

Cross References

Genesis 24:58

“They called Rebekah and asked her, ‘Will you go with this man?’ She replied, ‘Yes, I will go.’”

Rebekah made a decisive choice concerning her future.

1 Kings 1:2

“So his servants said to him, ‘Let us find a young virgin for my lord the king. She can serve the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that my lord the king will be warm.’”

The royal court also used young women to serve the king.

Song of Solomon 1:4

“Take me away with you—let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers. We will rejoice and be glad with you. We will praise your love more than wine. How right they are to love you!”

The Song of Solomon uses royal imagery to describe love and affection.

Crawford Commentary

Esther's response in the next verse becomes important.

She did not attempt to impress the king through excessive possessions.

XIV. ESTHER'S WISDOM AND HUMILITY

Esther 2:14 — A Different Part of the Harem

Verse 14

“She would go to the king in the evening and return the next morning to another part of the harem, under the care of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. She would not go to the king again unless he was especially pleased with her and called for her by name.”

The process was highly controlled.

The women did not simply return to their former lives.

They remained within the royal system.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 21:14

“If you do not want her, let her go wherever she wishes. You must not sell her or treat her as a slave, because you have humiliated her.”

The Law of Moses established protections concerning women taken in wartime.

Genesis 29:20

“So Jacob worked seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.”

Jacob's love for Rachel contrasts sharply with the impersonal royal system described in Esther.

Song of Solomon 2:16

“My beloved is mine, and I am his; he feeds his flock among the lilies.”

Biblical marriage is presented as involving mutual belonging and affection.

Crawford Commentary

Esther Chapter 2 describes a royal system very different from the covenant marriage model found throughout Scripture.

The narrative describes what happened; it does not mean everything that happened was God's ideal design for marriage.

XV. ESTHER'S HUMILITY

Esther 2:15 — She Asked for Nothing More

Verse 15

“When it was Esther's turn—the daughter of Abihail, Mordecai's uncle—she asked for nothing except what Hegai, the king's eunuch, recommended. Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.”

Esther demonstrated humility and restraint.

She did not demand expensive possessions.

She trusted the advice of Hegai.

Cross References

Genesis 6:8

“But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.”

Favor can come through God's grace.

1 Peter 3:4

“Instead, let your beauty come from within, from the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious to God.”

God values inner character.

Proverbs 22:1

“A good reputation is more valuable than great riches; being respected is better than having silver and gold.”

Character is more valuable than wealth.

Crawford Commentary

Esther's beauty was obvious.

But her conduct also mattered.

She was not presented as arrogant or demanding.

She listened.

She showed restraint.

She demonstrated humility.

Spiritual Principle

A person's character can open doors that outward appearance alone cannot.

XVI. ESTHER IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE KING

Esther 2:16 — The Tenth Month of the Seventh Year

Verse 16

“Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus in the royal palace in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.”

The long preparation finally reached its moment.

Esther was brought before the king.

Cross References

Ezra 7:9

“Ezra had left Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month because the gracious hand of his God was on him.”

God's hand was involved in Ezra's journey.

Nehemiah 2:1

“In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had never been sad in his presence before.”

Nehemiah's position before the Persian king would eventually become important to God's work.

Zechariah 1:7

“On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, the month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah.”

The Persian period appears repeatedly in the biblical story.

Crawford Commentary

The timing is significant.

Esther did not become queen immediately after Vashti's removal.

There was a period of preparation and waiting.

Spiritual Principle

God's timing may include seasons of preparation and waiting.

XVII. ESTHER BECOMES QUEEN

Esther 2:17 — The Crown Is Placed on Esther

Verse 17

“The king loved Esther more than all the other women. She won his favor and affection more than all the other virgins. So he placed the royal crown on her head and made her queen in place of Vashti.”

This is the turning point of Esther Chapter 2.

The orphaned Jewish girl becomes queen of the Persian Empire.

From an earthly perspective, it appears to be an extraordinary rise.

From the perspective of providence, it is preparation.

Cross References

Psalms 45:11

“The king is captivated by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord.”

Royal marriage is described in Psalm 45.

1 Samuel 16:13

“Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in front of his brothers. From that day on, the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.”

David's elevation demonstrates God's ability to raise someone from an unexpected background.

Proverbs 31:29

“Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”

Excellence and character bring honor.

Crawford Commentary

Esther's position is now dramatically different from where she began.

She was an orphan.

Now she is queen.

She was a Jewish exile.

Now she is in the center of the Persian royal court.

She had no apparent political influence.

Now she possesses a position that will eventually allow her to influence the fate of her people.

Key Truth

God can take someone from a place of weakness and position them for a place of influence.

XVIII. THE KING CELEBRATES ESTHER

Esther 2:18 — A Great Feast

Verse 18

“Then the king held a great feast in Esther's honor for all his officials and servants. He also declared a public holiday throughout the provinces and gave generous gifts, as was fitting for a king.”

Esther's coronation was celebrated throughout the empire.

Cross References

Genesis 21:8

“The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham held a great feast on the day Isaac was weaned.”

Feasts were occasions for celebration.

Luke 15:23

“Then bring the fattened calf and kill it. We must celebrate with a feast.”

Jesus used a feast to represent the joy of restoration.

Esther 9:22

“He told them to celebrate these days as days of feasting and joy, giving gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor.”

Esther later becomes connected with another great celebration.

Crawford Commentary

The king celebrated Esther becoming queen.

But the greatest reason for celebration had not yet been revealed.

God had placed the right person in the right position before the crisis appeared.

XIX. MORDECAI AT THE KING'S GATE

Esther 2:19 — Mordecai Holds a Position at the Gate

Verse 19

“When the young women were gathered together a second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate.”

Mordecai is now positioned near the royal court.

The gate was an important location where official business was conducted.

Cross References

Genesis 19:1

“That evening the two angels came to Sodom. Lot was sitting at the city gate. When he saw them, he stood up to meet them and bowed with his face toward the ground.”

The city gate could be a place of public business and authority.

Ruth 4:1

“Boaz went to the town gate and sat there. Just then, the family redeemer he had mentioned came by. Boaz said, ‘Come over here and sit down, my friend.’ So the man went over and sat down.”

Important legal and social matters were handled at the gate.

Esther 5:9

“Haman was a happy man as he left the banquet, but when he saw Mordecai sitting at the king's gate and noticed that Mordecai neither stood nor showed fear before him, Haman became furious with Mordecai.”

Mordecai's position at the gate becomes important later.

Crawford Commentary

Mordecai appeared to be doing ordinary work.

But ordinary faithfulness was positioning him for extraordinary usefulness.

XX. ESTHER CONTINUES TO OBEY MORDECAI

Esther 2:20 — She Keeps Her Family Background Secret

Verse 20

“Esther still had not revealed her family background or her nationality, just as Mordecai had instructed her. She continued to follow his directions, just as she had when he was raising her.”

Esther continued to honor Mordecai's instruction.

Cross References

Ephesians 6:1

“Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.”

Proverbs 1:8

“My child, listen when your father corrects you, and do not neglect your mother's instruction.”

Proverbs 6:20

“My son, obey your father's commands, and do not neglect your mother's instruction.”

Crawford Commentary

Esther's obedience demonstrates the lasting influence Mordecai had in her life.

She had become queen, but she did not suddenly become arrogant or independent of godly counsel.

Spiritual Principle

A change in position should never produce a change in character.

XXI. MORDECAI DISCOVERS A PLOT

Esther 2:21 — Two Men Plot to Kill the King

Verse 21

“During this time, while Mordecai was at the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs—Bigthan and Teresh, who guarded the doorway—became angry and plotted to assassinate King Ahasuerus.”

A serious threat develops.

Two men wanted to kill the king.

Cross References

2 Samuel 15:12

“While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, to come from his town of Giloh. So the conspiracy grew stronger, and Absalom's followers increased.”

Political conspiracies can grow quietly before becoming public.

Psalms 41:9

“Even my close friend whom I trusted, who shared my bread, has turned against me.”

Betrayal can come from people who are close to us.

2 Kings 12:20

“Joash's officials conspired against him and murdered him at Beth Millo, on the road down to Silla.”

Kings have historically faced threats from people within their own administration.

Crawford Commentary

Mordecai was in the right place at the right time.

He did not know what God was preparing to do with the information he discovered.

He simply acted faithfully.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness in ordinary circumstances may prepare the way for extraordinary opportunities.

XXII. MORDECAI REPORTS THE PLOT

Esther 2:22 — Esther Tells the King

Verse 22

“But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who then told the king, giving Mordecai credit as the source.”

Notice something important.

Mordecai did not seek personal glory.

He reported the danger.

Esther reported it to the king.

And Esther made sure that Mordecai received credit.

Cross References

Ecclesiastes 10:20

“Do not curse the king, even in your thoughts. Do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom, because a bird in the sky may carry your words, and some winged creature may report what you said.”

Wisdom requires discretion when dealing with authorities.

Amos 3:7

“Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets.”

God sometimes reveals important information so that His purposes can be carried out.

Proverbs 11:13

“A gossip goes around telling secrets, but a trustworthy person keeps a confidence.”

Mordecai demonstrated responsible handling of information.

Crawford Commentary

Mordecai could have used the information for personal advantage.

Instead, he did what was right.

He reported the plot.

He protected the king.

He did not demand immediate recognition.

Key Truth

Do the right thing even when you do not know whether anyone will reward you for it.

XXIII. THE PLOT IS CONFIRMED

Esther 2:23 — Mordecai's Deed Is Recorded

Verse 23

“After the investigation confirmed the plot, the two men were hanged on a gallows. All of this was recorded in the Book of the Chronicles in the presence of the king.”

The plot was investigated.

It was confirmed.

The conspirators were punished.

And the entire event was officially recorded.

This detail seems small.

But it is extremely important.

Cross References

Esther 6:1

“That night the king could not sleep, so he ordered the Book of the Chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought and read to him.”

This verse will eventually bring Mordecai's earlier faithfulness back into the story.

Ezra 4:15

“So that a search may be made in the official records of your predecessors. You will discover in these records that this city is rebellious and harmful to kings and provinces, causing trouble from ancient times. That is why this city was destroyed.”

Official records could contain information that later affected royal decisions.

Deuteronomy 19:19

“Then do to the false witness what that witness intended to do to the other person. You must remove the evil from among you.”

False accusations and testimony were taken seriously under God's law.

Crawford Commentary

Mordecai's reward did not come immediately.

The king did not appear to honor him.

Mordecai simply did what was right.

But the record remained.

Years later, the king would read that record.

And that seemingly forgotten act would become extremely important.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness may go unnoticed by people today, but God can preserve its significance for tomorrow.

XXIV. THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD IN ESTHER CHAPTER 2

Esther Chapter 2 contains several events that seem unrelated:

1. The king remembers Vashti.
2. A search begins for a new queen.
3. Esther is taken into the palace.
4. Esther gains favor.
5. Esther becomes queen.
6. Mordecai sits at the king's gate.
7. Mordecai discovers an assassination plot.
8. The plot is recorded in the royal chronicles.

At first, these events appear disconnected.

But they are not.

They are pieces of a larger providential plan.

Esther is positioned near the king.

Mordecai's good deed is recorded.

Later, that record will become the instrument God uses to change the course of events.

Crawford Bible Commentary Principle

God often prepares the answer before we even know there is going to be a problem.

XXV. KEY LESSONS FROM ESTHER CHAPTER 2

1. GOD POSITIONS PEOPLE FOR HIS PURPOSES

Esther was an orphan and an exile.

Yet she became queen.

Her position was not merely about privilege.

It would become an opportunity for service.

Lesson

Where God places you may be connected to something He plans to do through you.

2. OBEDIENCE AND HUMILITY BRING FAVOR

Esther listened to Mordecai.

She listened to Hegai.

She did not demand special treatment.

Her humility distinguished her.

Lesson

Humility prepares a person for responsibility.

3. GOD USES FAITHFULNESS IN SMALL THINGS

Mordecai discovered a plot and reported it.

It may have seemed like a small act.

But it was recorded in the royal chronicles.

Later, that record became extremely important.

Lesson

Never underestimate the significance of doing the right thing when nobody seems to notice.

4. GOD'S TIMING IS PERFECT

Esther did not become queen immediately.

Mordecai did not receive immediate recognition.

But the events were being positioned at exactly the right time.

Lesson

Delayed recognition does not mean forgotten faithfulness.

XXVI. PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question 1 — What does Esther's background teach us about God's ability to use people from difficult circumstances?

Answer:

Esther was an orphan who had lost both parents.

She was also part of a Jewish people living in exile under a foreign empire.

Yet God positioned her to become queen.

Her difficult beginning did not determine her final usefulness.

Application

Never assume that your past prevents God from using you.

God can use people who have experienced loss, hardship, rejection, disappointment, or difficult circumstances.

Question 2 — What does Mordecai's care for Esther teach us?

Answer:

Mordecai did not abandon Esther after raising her.

He continued watching over her and checking on her.

His actions demonstrate responsibility, love, and concern.

Application

When God gives us responsibility for another person, we should take that responsibility seriously.

Question 3 — Why is Esther's humility important?

Answer:

Esther did not demand whatever she wanted from the royal harem.

She accepted Hegai's recommendation.

She demonstrated wisdom and restraint.

Her beauty attracted attention, but her conduct also earned favor.

Application

Character matters more than possessions.

A person who has humility can be trusted with greater responsibility.

Question 4 — Why did Mordecai tell Esther not to reveal that she was Jewish?

Answer:

The text tells us that Mordecai instructed her to keep her nationality and family background private.

It does not give a detailed explanation for his reasoning in this verse.

Therefore, we should not claim more than the text tells us.

Later in the story, Esther's Jewish identity becomes central to the conflict.

Application

There are times when wisdom requires discretion.

Not every private matter needs to be announced publicly.

Question 5 — What does Esther becoming queen teach us about God's providence?

Answer:

Esther's rise to the throne placed a Jewish woman in the most influential position she could possibly occupy within the Persian Empire.

At the time, the reason for her position was not obvious.

Later, her position would become essential to protecting the Jewish people.

Application

God may place us somewhere long before we understand why we are there.

Question 6 — What does Mordecai's discovery of the assassination plot teach us?

Answer:

Mordecai was simply doing his responsibilities at the king's gate when he discovered the conspiracy.

He reported it instead of ignoring it.

His action was recorded.

Application

Faithfulness in ordinary circumstances matters.

We should do what is right even when nobody appears to be watching.

Question 7 — Why is it significant that Mordecai's action was written in the royal records?

Answer:

Because the event was not forgotten.

The record remained available for future use.

Later, the king would have those records read to him, and Mordecai's faithfulness would suddenly become important.

Application

You may not receive immediate recognition for doing what is right.

But your faithfulness is never meaningless.

Question 8 — What does Esther 2 teach us about God's timing?

Answer:

Esther becomes queen before the major crisis involving the Jews develops.

Mordecai's good deed is recorded before it becomes useful.

The circumstances are being arranged before the characters understand their importance.

Application

God can prepare tomorrow through what He asks you to do today.

Question 9 — Why should Christians remain faithful when nobody recognizes their work?

Answer:

Because our ultimate reward does not depend upon human recognition.

Mordecai did not immediately receive a reward for exposing the conspiracy.

Yet his action was preserved in the official record.

God sees faithfulness even when people do not.

Colossians 3:23

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people.”

Application

Work for God's approval rather than human applause.

Question 10 — What is the greatest lesson of Esther Chapter 2?

Answer:

The greatest lesson is that **God's providence is often working before we recognize it.**

Esther becoming queen and Mordecai exposing the plot appear to be separate events.

But both events are preparing the way for what comes next.

God is positioning people.

God is preserving information.

God is arranging circumstances.

And God is preparing deliverance.

XXVII. ESTHER 2 AND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Esther Chapter 2 has several direct applications for believers today.

When you feel insignificant:

Remember Esther.

When you feel your past disqualifies you:

Remember Esther.

When you are serving without recognition:

Remember Mordecai.

When you wonder why God has placed you somewhere:

Remember Esther.

When your good work seems forgotten:

Remember the royal record.

When you cannot see God's plan:

Remember that Esther could not see the entire plan either.

XXVIII. FIVE GREAT TRUTHS FROM ESTHER CHAPTER 2

1. YOUR PAST DOES NOT HAVE TO DETERMINE YOUR FUTURE

Esther was an orphan and exile, but she became queen.

2. GOD CAN USE YOUR POSITION FOR HIS PURPOSE

Esther's position in the palace eventually became critical.

3. HUMILITY IS A GREAT STRENGTH

Esther did not demand what she wanted.

4. SMALL ACTS OF FAITHFULNESS MATTER

Mordecai's report of the assassination plot seemed small, but it was recorded.

5. GOD'S TIMING IS NEVER RANDOM

Esther was placed in the palace before the crisis arrived.

XXIX. A CRAWFORD COMMENTARY PRINCIPLE

“God May Be Preparing You Before You Know What You Are Being Prepared For”

Esther did not know why she had become queen.

Mordecai did not know why his report was recorded.

Neither knew what was coming.

But God knew.

This is often how providence works.

God may be preparing:

- A person before an opportunity.
- A relationship before a crisis.
- A position before a responsibility.
- A testimony before a trial.
- A ministry before a need.
- An answer before a prayer is fully understood.

Crawford Principle

Never despise the season of preparation simply because you cannot yet see the purpose.

XXX. CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the lessons found in Esther Chapter 2.

Thank You for reminding us that You can use people from difficult backgrounds and place them in positions of influence for Your purposes.

Help us learn from Esther's humility.

Help us learn from Mordecai's faithfulness.

Teach us to be responsible with the people You place in our lives.

Help us to serve faithfully even when nobody recognizes our efforts.

When we feel forgotten, remind us that You never forget.

When we wonder why You have placed us in a certain situation, help us trust Your providence.

When we are in a season of preparation, give us patience.

When our faithfulness seems unnoticed, remind us that You see everything.

Help us understand that You may be preparing tomorrow through what You ask us to do today.

Give us wisdom, humility, courage, and faith.

And help us remember that Your timing is always greater than our understanding.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

XXXI. CENTRAL TRUTH OF ESTHER

CHAPTER 2

God can take an orphaned exile, place her in a position of influence, and use her life for a purpose far greater than she could have imagined.

And through Mordecai, we learn another important truth:

Faithfulness that appears forgotten may be the very thing God uses at the right moment.

ESTHER CHAPTER 2 — CRAWFORD COMMENTARY SUMMARY

Esther Chapter 2 moves the story from **Vashti's removal to Esther's coronation.**

Esther, an orphan raised by Mordecai, is brought into the royal palace. Through humility, wisdom, and favor, she becomes queen.

At the same time, Mordecai discovers an assassination plot against King Ahasuerus. He reports the conspiracy through Esther, and the event is recorded in the royal chronicles.

The chapter ends with two important things already in place:

Esther is in the palace.

Mordecai's faithful deed is in the royal record.

Neither event appears to have immediate significance.

But both will become critically important.

God is preparing the answer before the crisis fully appears.