

The Book of Esther

“From Exile to a Palace”

Esther 1 & 2

August 8, 2021 - Bob Hightchew

Introduction:

- Providence – Is the means by which God moves things to bring about His Will.
 - **Genesis 22:7-8**
 - Will we seek the Will of God and respond to it as we are called to do ... OR ... will we do our own thing?
 - There are a few things that are interesting about the Book of Esther:
 - God’s name is not mentioned at all.
 - Fasting – **Esther 4:16 ... 9:21**
 - Maybe prayer – **Esther 9:21**
 - We do see the Providence of God providing a way, even though they are disobedient. – **1st Corinthians 10:13**
 - This is the same Xerxes who fought the Spartans at Thermopylae.
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1. An Unknown Participant – King Xerxes:

- a. **Deuteronomy 31:18**
- b. **Esther 1:1-5**
- c. **Esther 1:6-8**
- d. What is it in your life that you like to put on display to try to show the world that you are someone special, even if it is in your own mind?
- e. What is it that you are trying to attach a legacy to?
- f. **Matthew 16:24-26**

2. An Unwilling Heart – Queen Vashti:

- a. **Esther 1:9**
- b. **Esther 1:10-11**
- c. **Esther 1:12**
- d. Rebellion for the wrong reason always comes with a price:
 - i. The Garden of Eden
 - ii. The Rebellion of Cain
 - iii. The Rebellion of Mankind
 - iv. The Rebellion of Israel
- e. Two Major forms of Rebellion:
 - i. Aggressive:
 - ii. Passive:
- f. **Luke 4:12**
- g. **2nd Peter 3:9**
- h. **Esther 1:12**

3. An Unlikely Hero – Esther:

- a. **Esther 2:5-7**
- b. Esther is her Persian name ... Hebrew – Hadassah
- c. **Esther 1:16-18**
- d. **Esther 1:19-22**
- e. **Esther 2**
- f. **Esther 2:17-18**
- g. This isn't the first time that God has used unlikely people to bring deliverance:
 - i. Deborah and Jael ... **Judges 4:8-24**
 - ii. Gideon ... **Judges 6:15**
 - iii. Samson ... **Judges 13-16**
- h. **Esther 4:14**
- i. **1st Corinthians 4:2**

