

[Beauty]

Esther 2:4 – 15

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is searching for the Lord Jesus Christ on every page of Scripture; but now that we are two reports into the Book of Esther, which doesn't even mention God or refer to Him in any way, finding Jesus becomes a little difficult for even the rankest fundamental believer. Okay, at least it does for me. Our last report ended dreadfully. If you haven't read our first two reports from Esther, I suggest you go back and do so now. The overall theme of Esther is the *providence* of God Almighty. The Word of God still brings people to the truth of itself; which truth surpasses and usurps all worldly wisdom — such as a book in the Bible that doesn't even mention God or even refer to Him in any way. That makes Esther quite extraordinaire. Okay, at least it does for me.

In our previous report, queen Vashti refused to participate in the king's perversion; and that ended badly for her. I think it surprised the drunken king that she refused to obey his command. In fact, the king would never have commanded what he did if he had not been seriously intoxicated. We were in the party halls of Xerxes in our last report at his banquet with his one hundred twenty-seven leading delegations from the provinces, and a family scandal was publicly revealed. That means something had to be done — and, so, something was done, and Vashti was set aside and put away — whatever that means.

After that, according to secular history, Xerxes campaigned against Greece, and that also went horribly and terribly wrong. He made it home alive, but was absolutely humiliated in defeat; and that is the state of mind that this man was pacing the palace floors in; pondering that miserable, drunken, stupid mistake he made one night so long ago. Well, it looks like Xerxes had some loyal friends, because they suggest a beauty contest that would, actually, make a Hollywood adult film producer blush if pitched as a story line....

4 And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.

5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;

6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.

9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.

10 Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.

11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.

12 Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;)

13 Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house.

14 In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name.

15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari moves on through Esther with absolutely no spirituality in our safari. This secular, pagan account is as godless as anything could possibly be. Basically, it was a drunken orgy every night. Now, however, we can begin to see that God is going to strategically place this daughter of Abihail to deliver His people; even though they are out of His will and doing terrible things, obviously. See, when the child of God gets out of the will of God, they sometimes get very far away from Him; then, God permits things to happen — of which He does not necessarily approve. For the child of God, He will overrule in events and experiences for the best interest of Christian's; even when said Christian's are doing things He does not approve of. Trust me, this happens all day long.

God overrules in the affairs of His children today; and most Christians live and operate *WAY* out on the fringe of the permissive will of God – and I do mean *most* people, friends. They won't acknowledge any direction from God and, let me tell you something: you can like it or not, these people are not in the direct will of God; irrespective of how much they think or say they are. They function way *WAY* out where God directs only by providence. You can call this the leading of God in Esther's life — and it is — but it is as indirect, impersonal and as informal as one can possibly get. So, our illustration in Esther is unmistakably that of the permissive will of God.

Enter Mordecai, who belonged to the royal family of Israel; King Saul's house, to be specific. What is Mordecai doing in Shushan the Babylonian palace instead of being back in Jerusalem rebuilding with Nehemiah and Ezra? Well, we don't know but, either way – here he is – and he is *COMPLETELY* out of the will of God. Our Spiritual Safari forensics team has now identified and confirmed the fingerprints of God on the scene of this book of Esther that has not God in it. God is moving through His providence at the time in which we are studying, and God is moving in your life and my life right now, too.

So, Mordecai had some type of minor position in the palace and that enabled him to see the different girls that came to the palace from all over the empire for this ancient bachelor contest. Esther means “*star*” and, naturally, she was beyond beautiful. Mordecai saw that Esther would have a very real chance of winning this beauty contest and Esther, apparently, believed in herself. Well, if they won, they would be disobeying God Who had told them not to intermarry. If they lost, it would have resulted in Esther being thrown into the king's harem as a concubine — never to be seen or heard from again. This was very risky business. What they are doing is exposing Esther to all sorts of potential bad things; irrespective of whether or not they win or lose.

So, what Mordecai and Esther are doing is not respectable on any level and they are nowhere even *CLOSE* to the direct will of God. Consideration of the Mosaic Law is not part of Mordecai's plan. They both want Esther to be the queen — and she will be — but God's plan and purpose for her being queen is something altogether different than Mordecai's and Esther's plan and purpose for her becoming queen. They certainly aren't thinking about saving the nation Israel at this time. No, friends, the motive is actually not very nice — and the only real opinion we could possibly afford Mordecai is that he is a perverted slime ball. He's basically trying to win the lottery with his daughter.

Everyone we meet in this book of our study is totally out of the will of God. At the same time, everything that is happening now is totally the providence of God overruling and intervening in the lost, pagan world to

deliver His people; a people who have chosen to stay behind in Babylon *AFTER* the captivity had ended. Well, when you're out of God's will, you aren't apt to boast in your testimony; and you certainly will not be useful in His work. Mordecai knew they were out of the will of God, so he told Esther not to say anything about being a Jew. Mordecai is now seen watching all the other women, and he's pacing up and down the halls of the palace worried sick wondering if he has made a huge mistake. I think Mordecai was absolutely frightened of what this thing could become; and rightfully so — because this is *NOT* faith — this is foolishness.

Alright, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition on another bad note. Esther stands out and everyone seems to think she will definitely win. Is this God moving at this time in which we are studying? — Yes. Is this the direct will of God? — No way! This is the providence of God. Does the Spiritual Safari find anything spiritual about this section of Scripture? — No, this is as spiritually dead as spiritually dead can get. The Lord is going to put Esther on the throne for an altogether different reason than she thinks she is there for. If we will just take this at face value as a historical record, then the Holy Spirit can make it spiritually meaningful to our hearts. The entire nation Israel hinges upon this one woman now ~

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