

Book Study on Esther

Preparation Process

Esther 2:15-18

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Introduction

- Review books of the Bible: Gen – Esther
- Introduction to Hadassah aka Esther.
- Esther introduced to the Palace
- Esther prepares to see the king

Let's pick up here in chapter 2 and verse 15

Bible

Est 2:15 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.

Est 2:16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh ear of his reign.

Est 2:17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

Est 2:18 Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

Lets look a little deeper into these verses:

Est 2:15 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.

- “she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women,”
 - Not being desirous to set herself off with artificial beauty, nor, probably, to please the king; having been brought to the king's house without and against her own inclination and choice. *But what Hegai, the king's chamberlain, appointed* — Being covetous of nothing, she left it entirely to the king's chamberlain to give her what he pleased, which was a mark of a modest and generous temper in her.¹
 - The other virgins perhaps loaded themselves with precious ornaments of various kinds, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, anklets, and the like. Esther let Hegai dress her as he would.²
 - She required nothing, to show that she was not desirous to please the king, and that she was brought to the king without and against her own inclination and choice.³
- “And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.”
 - i.e. was admired by them for her beauty.³
 - when she came to court, the eyes of all were attracted to her; all admired her beauty, her innocent and modest look, and her graceful mien and deportment.⁴
 - All that beheld her admired her beauty, which needed no ornament; for the greatest ornaments of virgins are, modesty, silence, well-disciplined eyes, a serene countenance, without levity, and horror of all wantonness; which, all meeting in her, made her agreeable in the eyes of all that saw her.¹

Est 2:16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the

¹ Benson, Joseph. "Commentary on Esther 2:15". Joseph Benson's Commentary. <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/rbc/esther-2.html>. 1857.

² Notes on the Bible by Albert Barnes [1834]. Text Courtesy of [Internet Sacred Texts Archive](http://www.internet-sacred-texts.com/).

³ Matthew Poole's Commentary Text Courtesy of BibleSupport.com. Used by Permission. Bible Hub

⁴ Gill, John. "Commentary on Esther 2:15". "The New John Gill Exposition of the Entire Bible".

<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/esther-2.html>. 1999.

seventh year of his reign.

- *“in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth”*
 - Answering to part of our December and January.⁵
 - Corresponding nearly with our January.⁶
- *“in the seventh year of his reign.”*
 - *In December, 479 B.C., or January, 478 B.C. Xerxes quitted Sardis for Susa in, or soon after, September, 479 B.C. It has been regarded as a "difficulty" that Vashti's place, declared vacant in 483 B.C., was not supplied until the end of 479 B.C., four years afterward. But since two years out of the four had been occupied by the Grecian expedition, the objection cannot be considered very weighty.*²
 - *in the seventh year of his reign] probably in January, b.c. 479. Xerxes had at that time lately returned from his ill-starred expedition against Greece.*⁷

Est 2:17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

- *“And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins;”*
 - The choice fell on Esther, who found favor in the eyes of Ahasuerus. He elevated her to the dignity of chief wife, or queen. The other competitors had apartments assigned them in the royal harem, and were retained in the rank of secondary wives, of whom Oriental princes have a great number.⁸
- *“so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.”*
 - Made her what is now called in the East the Sultana, the queen. She was the mistress of all the rest of the wives, all of whom were obliged to pay her the most profound respect.⁵
 - This consisted only of a purple ribbon, streaked with white, bound round the forehead.⁸
 - Crown. Literally, "diadem," (Haydock) which was a bandage "of purple, striped with white," by which the queen was distinguished from the other wives.⁹
 - Until Esther was chosen, no woman could compare with Vashti in beauty. It was only when Esther came that Ahasuerus removed the likeness of Vashti and replaced it with that of Esther (Esth. Rabbah 6:11).¹⁰

Est 2:18 Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

- *“Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast;”*
 - The nuptials were celebrated by a magnificent entertainment, and, in honor of the auspicious occasion,⁸
- *“and he made a release to the provinces and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.”*
 - The dotation of Persian queens consisted in consigning to them the revenue of certain cities, in various parts of the kingdom, for defraying their personal and domestic expenditure. Some of these imposts the king remitted or lessened at this time.⁸

⁵ Clarke, Adam. "Commentary on Esther 2:16". "The Adam Clarke Commentary". <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/esther-2.html>. 1832.

⁶ Whedon, Daniel. "Commentary on Esther 2:16". "Whedon's Commentary on the Bible". <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/whe/esther-2.html>. 1874-1909.

⁷ The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges Text Courtesy of BibleSupport.com. Used by Permission. Bible Hub

⁸ Jamieson, Robert, D.D.; Fausset, A. R.; Brown, David. "Commentary on Esther 2:17". "Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible". <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfb/esther-2.html>. 1871-8.

⁹ Haydock, George Leo. "Commentary on Esther 2:17". "George Haydock's Catholic Bible Commentary". <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/hcc/esther-2.html>. 1859.

¹⁰ <https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/esther-midrash-and-aggadah>