

King Xerxes meets Esther
(I wrote)

Last week, we began a study on King Xerxes.

He was a powerful and rich King.

Xerxes was married to a woman named Queen Vashti...but when she failed to appear before him when he called her...King Xerxes removed her from the throne and forbid her to appear before him ever again.

Soon after King Xerxes removed Queen Vashti from the throne...he began to see what a terrible mistake he had made...BUT the damage was done...Queen Vashti was gone.

King Xerxes mourned over the loss of Queen Vashti for three whole years.

Finally, the Kings attendants; who served him day in and day out realized that something had to be done about King Xerxes...he was mourning himself to death.

So...the kings attendants thought and thought and thought and soon.... They came up with a plan.

“Let’s search all the land for every young, single woman that we can find. Then we will parade them...one at a time in front of the king. Surely he will find a woman to replace Queen Vashti.”

So the search began for every available woman throughout the land.

One of the beautiful, single girls was named Hadassah or as we know her...Esther.

Esther was a Jewish orphan girl...her mother and father had both died when she was very young.

When her mother and father had died, Esther went to live with her cousin Mordecai.

Mordecai loved Esther just the same as he would have loved his own daughter.

And Esther...she loved Mordecai too.

Esther was beautiful...her face as well as her shape.

When the girls were gathered together...Esther was one of them.

As the girls were taken from their home, they were placed in the custody of Hegai, the king's helper.

At once, Esther was a favorite...Not only because she was beautiful...but because she was different. There was something much deeper to Esther than just physical looks.

Esther was given cosmetics to make her even more beautiful....food to fatten her up...and seven choice maids to help her with whatever she needed.

She and her maids were then transferred to the best place within the group of girls.

Why do you think the women were given food to fatten them up? Well...most of these girls were very young...many of them were probably only 12 or 13 years old.

Back in the Bible times, it was apparent when someone had lots of money...they would eat well...they would have feasts and banquets all the time. So you would be heavier than someone who had very little to eat.

Weight was a sign of wealth.

So the tiny little girls did not look like royalty. They had to be fattened up.

Why do you think they were given cosmetics when they were already the most beautiful girls throughout the land?

Because in the Persian culture...you could never be pretty enough. There were always

more treatments for a woman to have to endure.

So women would have to spend their day....everyday...going through treatments.

Women were treated as possessions back then. And everyone wanted to own the most beautiful woman.

Every day...Mordecai; Esther's uncle walked back and forth in front of the King's gates...He was anxious to see how little Esther was doing.

For six long months... each girl underwent oil and myrrh treatments and then they endured yet another six months with spices and their cosmetics.

After one long year....each girl was presented before the king.

Because Esther was Hegai's favorite...he gave her special pointers on what to do when she appeared before the king.

Many of the girls asked for special things or special treatment...but not Esther...she only took what Hegai had told her to take.

When Esther went in front of King Xerxes....she found immediate favor with him...and sure enough...King Xerxes placed the royal crown upon her head.

Esther...the little orphaned, Jewish girl was now...Queen Esther

Now Mordecai, Esther's cousin was an official government employee.

He sat at the king's gate and acted as an official go between.

When the king had a message for the people, Mordecai would relay that message to all the people standing by.

One day while Mordecai sat at the gate, he overheard a conversation between two of the king's officials.

It seems that they were angry about something so they had begun to plot against the king.

When Mordecai heard this horrible assassination plot, he quickly told Queen Esther.

Queen Esther told the King what Mordecai had spoken to her. He had an immediate investigation done of the two men.

When it was discovered that Mordecai had spoken the truth... the two men were hanged on a gallows.

Next week, we will learn more about King Xerxes, Queen Esther, and a brand new character... named Haman.

