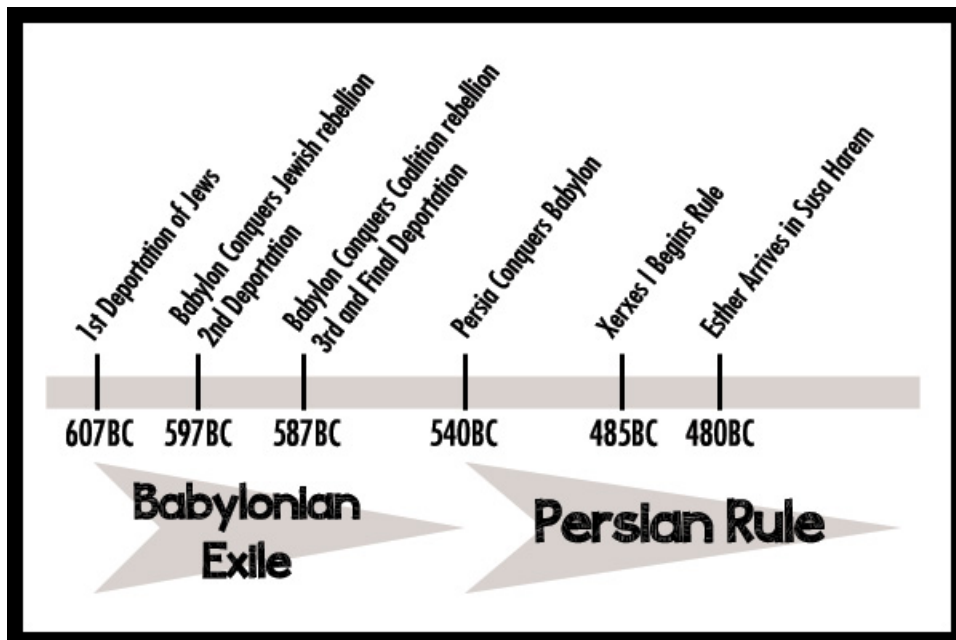




Chosen by the King
Esther 2:5-23

Esther 2:5-6 Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shemei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite, 6 who had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away.

- The Citadel was the fortified portion of the city where the King lived.
- Mordecai. The name means warrior.
- Timeline from then to now:



- Esther was more of a Persian than a Jewish woman. Persian by culture, Jewish by birth and heritage.

Esther 2:7 He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father or mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

- Hadassah was Esther's Jewish name. Esther, again, meant star, or Myrtle.
- Esther had a beautiful figure, and a beautiful face.

Psalm 139:14 I will praise You because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.

- If God has created us in His image, if we have been remarkably and wonderfully made, why do we complain about what we look like so much?

Arguing with how we look and who we are is taking offense at the Creator and how He made you.

Esther 2:8 So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women.

- Josephus, a noted Jewish scholar, put the number at 400 young women.
- We don't know if she volunteered, or was just taken.
- Hegai, a Eunuch, was in charge of the women.
- Was it right for her to go?

Esther 2:9-11 And the young woman pleased him and won his favor. And he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and her portion of food, and with seven chosen young women from the king's palace, and advanced her and her young women to the best place in the harem. 10 Esther had not made known her people or kindred, for Mordecai had commanded her not to make it known. 11 And every day Mordecai walked in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and what was happening to her.

- Esther was obviously not only beautiful on the outside, but had a good heart, and pleased Hegai.
- Esther chose to obey her cousin, who had raised her like a daughter. She chose not to trust her own instincts, but of those who were her authority.
- We have the opportunity in community to ask questions and learn from those older than us.

Ignorance defined in a young person is he or she who does not ask the advice of older, Godly men and women.

- Mordecai had earned this trust.
- People first plus obedience equals a powerful life.

Esther 2:12-14 Now when the turn came for each young woman to go in to King Ahasuerus, after being twelve months under the regulations for the women, since this was the regular period of their beautifying, six months with oil of myrrh and six months with spices and ointments for women--13 when the young woman went into the king in this way, she was given whatever she desired to take with her from the harem to the king's palace. 14 In the evening she would go in, and in the morning she would return to the second harem in custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, who was in charge of the concubines. She would not go into the king again, unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name.

- Over 400 women were sent in to this King to please him. Sexually.
- This was about his satisfaction, not theirs.
- Let's call it what it is. A sacrifice.
- All of these women outside of the chosen one would never know the love of a husband, or the pleasure of having a family. They would be set aside in the King's harem for life.

Esther 2:15 When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her.

- She continues to trust not in her own understanding but in the good authority over her. She continues to listen to Hegai.
- Esther's personality as well as her beauty was winning her favor

Esther 2:16-17 And when Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, 17the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

- We don't know what happens, but we do know the outcome is grace and favor.

James 4:6 But He gives greater grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.

Esther 2:18 Then the king gave a great feast for all his officials and servants; it was Esther's feast. He also granted a remission of taxes to the provinces and gave gifts with royal generosity.

- We can definitely say that when Xerxes partied, every one was the beneficiary.
- He blessed his people as he felt blessed.

Esther 2:19-23 Now when the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate. 20 Esther had not made known her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him. 21 In those days, as Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. 22 And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai 23 When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. And it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.