

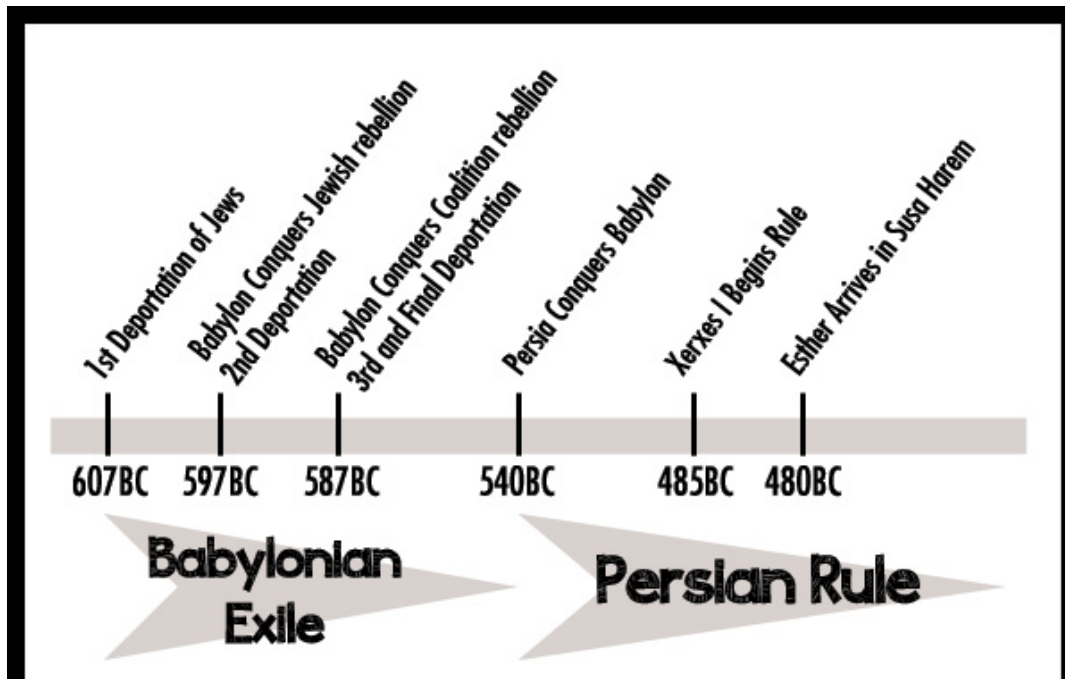


## Chosen By The King Esther 2:5-23

- Where is culture heading? And why should you care?
- How do we operate in a post-Christian culture?
- God may “restore America,” but we might also be in a season like Esther where we are just going to have to figure out how to operate and shine in a dark, pagan culture.

**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 Benjamite, 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 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.

- She is Jewish, but she is Persian by culture. What she knows is Persia. Hadassah means “myrtle.”
- Esther is an orphan, beautiful face, beautiful figure.
- She and Mordecai are disconnected from their Jewish roots.

**Psalms 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.

- Appreciate how God has 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.

- Was it right for her to go? No mention that she was coerced.

**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.

- She is Hegai’s favorite.
- God does this over and over, giving His people favor in pagan governments. Moses, Abraham, Joseph, Daniel...
- Esther defers to the wisdom of her elder, Mordecai.

**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 in to 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 in to the king again, unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name.

- Over 400 women...beauty contest.

- His pleasure, not hers.
- Losers go to harem, maybe never to be seen again. Virtual widows.

**Esther 2:15-17** 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. 16 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, 17 the 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.

- Winning over everyone. Beautiful, and apparently kind.
- Wins 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 2:18-23** 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. 19 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.

- Mordecai did not think, 'I'll let this pagan king fend for himself.'

**1 Peter 2:17** "Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor."

- **God's providence—“and it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.” We will see this significant recording play out soon.**

This story is really about being a solid believer, chosen by the King for a purpose.

- We are a minority now. We are not a Christian dominated culture. Post Christian.
- Is the United States, in a gospel sense, a “burned over district?”

- Are we to give up? Never. What, then?

**1) Remember where we came from. 1 Corinthians 6:11**

**2) People don't need to be more moral. They need to be less dead.**

**3) We look for opportunity.**

**4) Trust God.**

**1 Samuel 12:22** For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.