

"Faithful to the Comfortable"

Esther 2:1-23

April 16, 2023

I. Esther 2:1-23 Explained

- A. Two years (or so) after deposing Vashti, Xerxes looks for a new queen.
- B. A Jewish young woman Esther is ultimately chosen.
- C. Her older cousin and father-figure Mordecai is given a position of high royal trust (enabling him to stop an assassination attempt).
- D. Yet questions remain...
 - 1. Was Esther *forced* into this situation that would've required much religious and moral compromise? It doesn't appear so...
 - 2. And why did Mordecai tell her to keep her Jewish heritage a secret?
 - a. Concerns for her safety?
 - b. Or was he trying to remove all potential roadblocks to her success?
 - c. Was he hoping to benefit from Esther's advancement? He certainly reaped some rewards...

II. Implications and Applications

- A. Esther and Mordecai were most likely far too comfortable with a compromised life in their Persian surroundings (as were their fellow Jews).
- B. Despite this, the Lord was still working on their behalf:
 - 1. From her position as queen, Esther would soon have opportunity to save herself and God's people from annihilation.
 - 2. Mordecai's "chance" discovery of the assassination plot would later contribute to God's deliverance of His people.
- C. During seasons where we, sadly, grow too comfortable with worldly living, our Lord still works on our behalf.
- D. Our response to God's kindness should be renewed repentance of our compromised comfort. (Rom. 2:4)