

New Series

'Esther – a beauty that's more than skin deep'



Today

**'From an orphan
to a Queen**

Esther 1- 2:7

The 5 main characters

1. King Xerxes

- In the 3rd year of a 21 yr reign
- Rules over the vast Persian Empire

The 5 main characters

2. Queen Vashti

- Not a great deal known
- Strong minded/independent-thinking

The 5 main characters

3. Haman – ‘the bad guy’

- Next in line to the king
- Arrogant/deceitful/anti-Semitic

The 5 main characters

4. Mordecai – ‘the good guy’

- Jew still residing in Persia
- Godly man – plays a significant role in Esther’s life

The 5 main characters

5. Esther

- Name means 'star'
- Young & stunningly beautiful
- Destined to become Queen

Synopsis of events in chapter 1

- Banquet 1 – for military leaders, nobles & officials lasting 180 days
- Banquet 2 – for all the people lasting 7 days
- Banquet 3 – for ‘women only’ hosted by Vashti

Synopsis of events in chapter 1

- Xerxes commands Vashti to provide entertainment for his guests
- She refuses – Xerxes is fuming
- Vacancy for position of Queen
Beauty contest is planned

1. God wants husbands to treat our wives with loving respect

On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him ... to bring before him Queen Vashti ... to display her beauty to the people ... for she was lovely to look at. But ..., Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger

Est 1:10-12

1. God wants husbands to treat our wives with loving respect

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord

Eph 5:22

1. God wants husbands to treat our wives with loving respect

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Eph 5:25

For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church ...

Eph 5:23

1. God wants husbands to treat our wives with loving respect

"Eve was made by God, not out of His head to rule over Him, nor out of His feet to be trampled upon by Him, but out of His side to be equal with Him, under His arm to be protected, and near His heart to be loved"

Matthew Henry

2. God can use us despite our background

Later when King Xerxes' fury had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her

Est 2:1

2. God can use us despite our background

*Now there was in the citadel of Susa
a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin,
named Mordecai*

Est 2:5a

2. God can use us despite our background

Mordecai had a cousin ... whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died

Esther 2:7

3. God is always at work behind the scenes

“God’s presence is not as intriguing as His absence. His voice is not as eloquent as His silence”

Chuck Swindoll – ‘Esther a woman of strength and dignity’



*Many are the plans in a person's heart,
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails*

Prov 19:21