

THE AFTERMATH OF DEFEAT IN GREECE
THE THREAT TO ISRAEL, PART 2
(Esther 2:1-23)

- I. The Providential CHOICE of a New QUEEN (Esther 2:1-18)
 - A. The proposed METHOD for FINDING a queen (2:1-4)
 - 1. The king REMEMBERED Vashti
 - 2. His advisors proposed SELECTING “beautiful young VIRGINS” from throughout the empire from whom the KING could choose
 - 3. EVERY girl selected would be added to the king’s HAREM
 - 4. They would be given BEAUTY TREATMENTS before the king made his choice
 - B. The inclusion of a JEWESS as CANDIDATE for queen (2:5-11)
 - 1. Hadassah was probably descended from the line of KING SAUL
 - 2. She was Mordecai’s COUSIN, whom he had ADOPTED
 - 3. She was remanded into the CUSTODY of the keeper of the WOMEN
 - 4. He provided her with seven “CHOICE maids” and put them in the “BEST PLACE in the harem”
 - 5. Mordecai forbade Esther to REVEAL her NATIONALITY
 - 6. He kept up with her STATUS
 - C. The PROCESS for CHOOSING the queen (2:12-14)

1. It started with a YEAR of BEAUTY treatments
 2. When being presented to the KING, she could take with her ANYTHING she WANTED
 3. Each would spend ONE NIGHT with the king
 4. She would then take her place in the “SECOND HAREM”
- D. The SURPRISING selection of ESTHER as queen (2:15-18)
1. She took NOTHING but what the STEWARD provided
 2. She impressed EVERYONE who SAW her
 3. By God’s GRACE, the king LOVED Esther
 4. Xerxes CROWNED her as his QUEEN
- II. The Providential DELIVERANCE of the KING (Esther 2:19-23)
- A. Mordecai at the king’s GATE (2:19-20)
- B. Mordecai as the king’s PROTECTOR (2:21-23)
1. An ASSASSINATION plot “became KNOWN to” Mordecai
 2. He reported what he’d learned to QUEEN ESTHER
 3. She reported to the king what MORDECAI had learned
 4. When VERIFIED the conspirators were EXECUTED
 5. Mordecai’s AID to the king was RECORDED
- III. Lessons
- A. INVISIBLE acts of divine control OVERRULE the intentions of the most POWERFUL of men
- B. God is ACTIVE, not REACTIVE, in directing the affairs of humanity