

THE MAN THAT WAS MORDECAI ESTHER 2

Esther 1:3 In **the third year** of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him: **Esther 2:16** So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, **in the seventh year** of his reign. **Esther 3:7** In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, **in the twelfth year** of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.

Xerxes had a lot going on between the fall of Vashti and the rise of Esther! (Xerxes 486-465 BC)

490 Darius the Great and the battle of Marathon

Xerxes raised a massive army and navy to avenge Dad and crush the Greek states.

480 Thermopylae

480 Salamis

479 Plataea

This is the background:

Chapter 1 was in preparation for the war.

Chapter 2 was after a great loss.

1. Mordecai – a man **born in** the diaspora.

Esther 2:5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was **Mordecai**, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; **Esther 2:6** Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, **whom** Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

The story states simply that Mordecai:

- Was Jewish
- Named Mordecai
- In the diaspora
- Descended from 3 generations before him in the diaspora
- His great-grandfather was part of the second Babylonian exile

606/5 BC: Daniel and the upper class

598/7 BC: Ezekiel and the middle class

586 BC: Jeremiah and the lowest class

- Of the tribe of Benjamin
- Same tribe and descendant name as Saul

1 Samuel 9:1 Now there was a man of **Benjamin**, whose name was **Kish**, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power. **1 Samuel 9:2** And he had a son, whose name was **Saul**, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

- Part of the palace retinue

2. Mordecai – a man **controlled by** duty and honor!

Esther 2:7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; **whom** Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, **took for his own daughter**.

Esther 2:15 Now when the turn of **Esther**, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, **who had taken her for his daughter**, was come to go in unto the king....

Esther 2:20 Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; **as** Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, **like as** when she was brought up with him.

It is always a **fair question** to ask who a person is: character, motives, their heart...

However, the Book of Esther reveals almost no motives / motivations

The Book of Esther does reveal actions & details

What do we find?

- Mordecai brought up Hadassah / Esther
- Esther was his cousin → probably a much younger cousin
- Esther's parents had died
- Mordecai then brought her up
- Mordecai brought her up as his daughter

Exodus 20:12 **Honour** thy father **and** thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Deuteronomy 6:6 And **these words**, which I command thee this day, shall be in **thine heart**: **Deuteronomy 6:7** And thou shalt teach them **diligently** unto thy children, and shalt talk of them **when** thou sittest in thine house, and **when** thou walkest by the way, and **when** thou liest down, and **when** thou risest up.

1 Timothy 5:4 But if any widow have children (τέκνα) or nephews (ἐκγόνα), let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents (τοῖς προγόνους): for that is good and acceptable before God. **1 Timothy 5:8** But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and **is worse** than an infidel.

- **Mordecai didn't have to bring her up → he was the father he didn't have to be**
- **Mordecai was an actual father → not nominally!**

Esther 2:10 Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: **for** Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.

Esther 2:20 Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; **as** Mordecai had charged her: **for** Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.

- **Mordecai brought up a beautiful, feminine daughter**
- **Mordecai was a father with limitations → we can't always protect our children**

3. Mordecai – a man **concerned** about Esther (his daughter).

Esther 2:11 And Mordecai walked **every day** before the court of the women's house, **to know** how Esther did, **and what** should become of her.

We must come to the elephant in the room: what was Esther's frame of mind? Was Esther sinning?

Esther 2:1 After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her. **Esther 2:2** **Then** said the king's servants that ministered unto him, **Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:** **Esther 2:3** **And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace,** to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them: **Esther 2:4** **And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.**

Esther 2:8 So it came to pass, **when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace,** to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.

Esther 2:11 And Mordecai walked **every day** before the court of the women's house, **to know** how Esther did, **and what** should become of her.

Esther 2:12 Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;) **Esther 2:13** Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house. **Esther 2:14** **In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned** into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name. **Esther 2:15** Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. **And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.** **Esther 2:16** So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. **Esther 2:17** **And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.** **Esther 2:18** **Then** the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

Thoughts:

- **All of this language leaves all the young virgins passive / without consent**
- **Esther's heart is not revealed!**
- **Mordecai was obviously very concerned**
- **As with most people forced into something even remotely similar:**

Fear	Shame	Excitement
What is God doing?	Hope	Resignation
Confused	Tempted	Conflicted In tension

4. Mordecai – a man **privy** to a plot!

Esther 2:19 And when the virgins were gathered together **the second time, then** Mordecai sat in the king's gate. **Esther 2:20** Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him. **Esther 2:21** **In those days,** while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. **Esther 2:22** And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name. **Esther 2:23** And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; **therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.**