

## Esther

**Esther:** only book in bible without God's name

**Sovereign:** what God wants to happen

**Providence:** how God makes it happen

"For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty. When these days were over, the king gave a banquet, lasting seven days..."

[Esther 1:4-5]

"Later when King Xerxes' fury had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her. The king's personal attendants proposed, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king."

[Esther 2:1-3]

### 1. God opportunities are disguised as obstacles

"...who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive..."

[Esther 2:6]

"So many of us are so focused on what has happened to us in life, that we miss out on what could happen in life."

### 2. Opportunities are provided through people

"Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died."

[Esther 2:7]

"Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. Everyday he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her."

[Esther 2:10-11]

"Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained in the way of righteousness."  
[Proverbs 16:31]

"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching."  
[Proverbs 1:8]

"Alignment is more important than assignment."

"Who" is even more important than "what"

### **3. Opportunities widen for those who patiently prepare**

You should be living like God is already doing what you are waiting for.

### **4. Opportunities that "just happen" didn't "just happen"**

"During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai. And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were impaled on poles. All of this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king."

[Esther 2:21-23 ]

"That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. It was found there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. "What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" The king asked."

[Esther 6:1-3]

"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

[Esther 4:14]

### **5. Opportunities come to those with perspective**