

Study Guide

Pray: Pray that God will show you something new in this reading of His Word and that you will be fully present as you consider these questions.

Read: Begin by reading Esther 2 straight through, as you would any book. You can read on, but for this study week we will concentrate on this Chapter.

Note: Some years have passed between chapters 1 and 2. Commentators say that during that time period King Xerxes waged war against Greece and was disastrously defeated.

Questions:

1. Who gave the King advice, and list the things they proposed Xerxes should do to replace Vashti in **V2-V4**.
2. What can you say about King Xerxes decision-making process in **V4**? (See also Esther 1:19)
3. King Xerxes was manipulated by counselors who appealed to his weakness. Share a time when you have been prone to similar influences.
4. List what you know about Mordecai from **V5-7** and **V10-11**.

5. What do you know about Esther from **V7-10**?

6. Explain the process all the girls went through in the harem (**V12-14**).

7. Why do you think that Esther won the favor of so many people? See **V9, 15, & 17**.

8. How was the plot uncovered, and what was the result in **V 22-23**?

9. For what purpose was God using Esther's beauty?

10. For what future purpose could God be using Mordecai's position at the gate?

11. a) Reflect on your own life: the opportunities, accomplishments, positions and talents, and list some of them. Prayerfully consider how God may be using them for His higher purposes.

For Possible Reflection: Focus verse: / prayer / quote