

## The Providence of God: A Study of the book of Esther

### Chapter 2 - Study Questions

“While Esther has all the ingredients for a good story, what makes it even more fascinating is that it is a book of the Bible, which means it is a book “breathed” by God – inspired, recorded, and preserved for eternity. A divine work ordained by the One and Only True God. And because of that, Esther has a purpose beyond being simply a fascinating story...As it says in Romans 15:4, (this) was written for your instruction – so that you might have encouragement and hope for your life.” (Precepts)

- Begin with prayer – ask the Spirit of God to lead you into all truth and to use His Word to help you know Him better and to understand His ways.
- Read Esther chapter 2. (Suggestion: print out the chapter on a separate piece of paper. This may be helpful as you observe, mark, and take notes.) Have fun digging into the precious Truth that is God’s Word!

#### Observation:

1. Get the facts:

- a) **Who** are the main characters in Esther chapter 2? Describe these characters. Note any similarities or differences between Vashti and Esther.
- b) **What** is happening? (Main events)
- c) **Where?** Does the chapter indicate where the events are happening?
- d) **When?** Any references to time?

2. Take note of repeated words/phrases. If it is helpful, mark or color code them. (Words and phrases are repeated because they are important!) List some of the words and phrases you've seen repeated throughout chapters 1 and 2.
  
3. In one phrase or sentence, summarize the main event of each paragraph in Esther chapter 2. This will help you determine the overall theme of the chapter.

2:1-4 (example: *A plan to replace Vashti*)

2:5-7

2:8-11

2:12-14

2:15-16

2:17-18

2:19-23

**Interpretation:** (Using your paragraph summaries and observations, determine the subject, theme and purpose of this chapter.)

Subject: (What is the author's general topic?)

Theme: (What specifically about the subject is being discussed?)

Purpose: (This is the purpose the Holy Spirit had in mind when He inspired the passage. Ask yourself, *why is this in the Bible?*)

\*\*\*To help you determine the subject, theme, and purpose of this text, **ask questions of the text.**

Below are some examples to help you start:

4. Read Ezra 4:1-6. Why might Mordecai have told Esther not to reveal her Jewish heritage?
5. List at least three of the events of chapter 2 that seemed to happen by chance. What does this tell you about God?

**Application:**

6. Earlier, you listed any similarities or differences you found between Vashti and Esther. Are there any lessons you can learn from them as a woman?
7. In the last few verses of 2 Chronicles 36, you read it was Cyrus who decreed that the Jews could return to Jerusalem to build the Lord's house there. Read Isaiah 44:24-45:7 to see what Isaiah prophesied more than one hundred years before Cyrus was born.
  - a. List what you learn from the passage about God.
  - b. How does this affect your worldview? Is there any application for your life?
  - c. Relate what you've seen about God in this passage to the events in Esther 1 and 2.

Doesn't this cause you to stand in awe of God and make you want to know God's Word inside out?! Remember, it is the bread by which we live! It shows us how to live and how to view the world in which we live.