

All Things Work Together for Good
(Lesson 2)

Introduction:

1. The book of Esther illustrates the special principle revealed in Romans 8:28.
2. Review of ch.1:
 - a. Ahasuerus, king of Persia, became angry with Vashti the queen because she refused to appear before his friends so they could admire her beauty.
 - b. A law was enacted and published which stated that a new queen would replace Vashti (vs.19-22).
3. In this lesson we are covering the information presented in ch.2.
 - a. Two new characters are introduced: Mordecai and Esther.
 - b. Esther was chosen to be queen.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.1) FOLLOWING THE EVENTS RECORDED IN CH.1, THE KING REMEMBERED WHAT HAD HAPPENED CONCERNING VASHTI
- II. (vs.2-4) THE SEARCH FOR A NEW QUEEN BEGAN
 - A. (vs.2-4a) A procedure for selecting a new queen was suggested to the king.
 - B. (vs.4b) The king approved of this procedure.
- III. (vs.5-7) MORDECAI AND ESTHER ARE INTRODUCED
 - A. Mordecai:
 1. was a Jew who served in the palace
 2. raised his cousin Hadassah [Esther] as his own daughter.
 - B. Esther was a beautiful young Jewish woman whose parents had died.
- IV. (vs.8-11) ESTHER WAS AMONG THE WOMEN CHOSEN TO APPEAR BEFORE THE KING
 - A. (vs.8-9) Esther gained the favor of Hegai, and he showed her preferential treatment.
 - B. (vs.10) Esther did not reveal that she was Jewish.
 - C. (vs.11) Mordecai continued to check on Esther's welfare.
- V. (vs.12-14) THE SELECTION OF A NEW QUEEN BEGAN
 - A. (vs.12) After 12 months, each woman appeared before the king.
 - B. (vs.13) Each woman was given whatever she desired.
 - C. (vs.14) After appearing before the king, the women became his concubines.
- VI. (vs.15-20) ESTHER WAS CHOSEN TO BE THE NEW QUEEN
 - A. Esther pleased the king more than all the other women.
 - B. Even though she became queen, Esther continued to follow Mordecai's instructions.
- VII. (vs.21-23) MORDECAI REVEALED A PLOT AGAINST THE KING
 - A. Two of the king's chamberlains decided to kill the king.
 - B. Mordecai learned about the plot, he told Esther about it, Esther reported this to the king, and the men were executed.
 - C. Although Mordecai was not immediately rewarded, this information was written in the king's records [the importance of this will be seen in ch.6].
- VIII. LET US MAKE SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE KING AND MORDECAI
 - A. The king:
 1. was somewhat vain (1:4)
 2. was morally weak
 3. seemed to do whatever his followers suggested.
 - B. Mordecai:
 1. was a good man
 - a. He adopted his cousin.
 - b. He was concerned about her welfare.
 2. was loyal to the king.