

# The Holy Bible — KJV

Red Letter Edition

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## ESTHER: Chapter 2

**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.

**2:2** Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king;

**2:3** And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all fair young virgins unto Shushan, the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hegai, the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them

**2:4** And let the maiden who pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king, and he did so.

**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,

**2:6** Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity who had been carried away with Jeconiah, king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had carried away.

**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.

**2:8** So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree were 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.

**2:9** And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness from him; and he speedily gave her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, who were meet to be given her, out of the king's house of the women.

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

**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.

**2:12** Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to King Ahasuerus, after she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women (for so were the days of their purification accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odors, and with other things for the purifying of the women),

**2:13** Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house.

**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, who kept the concubines. She came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name.

**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 favor in the sight of all them who looked upon her.

**2:16** So Esther was taken unto King Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

**2:17** And the king loved Esther above all women, and she obtained grace and favor 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.

**2:17** Them the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release from taxes to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

**2:19** And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, them Mordecai sat in the king's gate.

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

**2:21** In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those who kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king, Ahasuerus.

**2:22** And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther, the queen; and Esther certified the king of it in Mordecai's name.

**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.

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