

**Esther: Portrait of a Queen
TS024**

**The Queen God Is Seeking
5041**

I. Characters/Types

- A. Ahasuerus: a picture of Jesus Christ, a “king of kings”
- B. Vashti: picture of a Church that God will reject
- C. Esther: the bride of Christ, the Church in her role as queen
- D. See Ps. 45:1, Eph. 5:22–27 for symbolism used

II. The Two Banquets (Est. 1:1–8)

- A. The first was lengthy—180 days—and only for the top officials (vs. 3–4). Represents past history.
- B. The second, the “feast of 7 days” represents the Gospel dispensation: brief, intimate, “for all the people,” open to everyone in a setting of unique beauty; the riches of God made available to the poor and underprivileged, those who had never been inside the king’s palace before.

III. The Vashti Church and the Holy Spirit (Est. 1:9–22)

- A. Vashti was so busy with her own program that when the summons came, she turned it down!
 - 1. The seven *eunuchs*—the Holy Spirit who summons the Church. The Holy Spirit does not covet the Bride for Himself; His whole desire is to bring the Bride to Christ. He always focuses the attention of the Bride on the Bridegroom.
 - 2. The seven *princes*—the Holy Spirit who pronounces judgment.
- B. Vashti’s attitude prevalent in our contemporary culture, and in many sections of the professing Church: an attitude which despises male authority. Vashti was removed from her place because her behavior would affect the women of the kingdom in like manner, the spiritual condition of the Church, for better or worst, will affect the condition of our nation, including the unbelievers.

IV. The Esther Church: Preparation To Rule (Est. 2:1–17)

- A. Messengers looking for beautiful women to bring to the king, one of whom would become queen (Est. 2:3).
 - 1. Spiritually, God’s agents are out looking for a queen.
 - 2. Hegai also typifies the Holy Spirit. His task was to prepare the Queen for the King.
- B. Two kinds of preparation (Est. 2:12):
 - 1. Myrrh—signifies suffering
 - 2. Beauty ointments
 - a. Beauty never comes without suffering. We cannot become the bride without the myrrh.
 - b. A Queen goes through special preparation and disciplines that others do not undergo.

V. The Queen and the Holy Spirit (Est. 2:15)

- A. Esther took nothing but what Hegai advised. He knew best what would please the King.
- B. Our response: Are we going to make our own choices about what pleases the King? Or are we going to take nothing but what the Holy Spirit provides?

The Queen Meets the Challenge

5042

I. Conflict (Est. 3:1–15)

- A. The king promoted Haman, a descendant of Agag, and gave him his ring, symbol of authority. This apparent alliance of God with evil—the king giving authority to a man bent on destroying Israel—parallels the question of Hitler and the Holocaust: Did it happen by permission of God? We cannot ignore the agony and reality of things which happen in life.
- B. Haman was in the occult (Est. 3:7). Any serious opponent of God’s people always has some involvement in the occult.
- C. The entire Jewish people were probably found within the Persian Empire at that time. Haman planned total genocide. Parallel: our century is the century of genocide.

II. Character

- A. Mordecai: picture of ministries that build the Church (Eph. 4:11): Later, his own life depended on the character he had built into Esther.
- B. Esther: product of the ministry; the Church. She had grown up under Mordecai’s careful training—in fact, discipleship.

III. Challenge

- A. Esther’s position: no contact with King Ahasuerus for 30 days. Had his attitude toward her changed? At the risk of her own life, she went into the king on the basis of faith, not feeling. As Christians, we often face a similar situation: no encouragement, seemingly no response from God, unable in our own strength to face the crisis. We are left with one thing: *faith*
- B. Esther had a relationship with the Jewish people that was not public. Yet since she was Jewish, she would be destroyed if the decree was carried out. This is true of the Church: we have been “grafted in” and cannot disclaim our relationship with the Jewish people. Today, aggressive Islam and atheistic communism (one facet of secular humanism) threaten the State of Israel. These are the same two major world forces which threaten the Church. Each of them will not stop short of genocide.
- C. The church is in exactly the same position as Esther was: If we do not stand with the Jews, we will be destroyed. In the last resort there is no neutrality.

IV. Esther’s Response (Est. 4:15–5:3)

- A. The crisis truly made a queen of Esther. She is not called “queen” until chapter 5. She found favor in the king’s sight and was invited to share his authority from that moment onward.
- B. We in the ministry will not succeed in our task unless we train a Queen that can attain to the throne: a corporate Church that will go beyond the second curtain and share the King’s authority with Him (compare Is. 52:1–2).

V. What God Is Seeking in His Church

- A. Determination and courage
- B. Willingness to depend on God alone
- C. Acknowledgement of relationship to Israel, and acceptance of the responsibility that goes with it
- D. The ministry of intercessory prayer and fasting