

# A Time to Stand

...for such a time as this. Esther 4:14



The Favor of God  
Esther 2  
Lesson 2

## Background Information

Nearly four years have passed since Vashti was deposed. During that time, Ahasuerus directed his ill-fated Greek campaign and came home in humiliation instead of honor. As he considered his rash actions toward his wife, his affection for Vashti rekindled; and though he had a harem full of concubines, he missed his queen. According to the law, which made the word of a Persian king irrevocable, she could not be restored. A Persian monarch could only legally choose a wife from six noble families. But, of course, in the exercise of his absolute power, he could break these restrictions. He was therefore urged by his counselors, to search the kingdom for a replacement for Vashti.

In countries of the East the custom requires that, when an order is sent to a family for a young virgin the parents, dare not refuse the honor for their daughter. They understand that once she enters into the royal harem they will never see her again, but are obliged to yield a silent and passive compliance. God is never surprised by circumstances or at a loss for prepared servants. His hand of favor was on Esther who proved ready for her ministry to the Jews in the Persian Empire.

It is no coincidence that God, in His providence, enabled Mordecai to hear about the plot against the king's life and notify Queen Esther. When Esther told the king, she gave Mordecai the credit for uncovering the conspiracy; this meant that his name was written into the official chronicle. This fact will play an important part in the drama four years later. Mordecai received neither recognition nor reward for saving the king's life. However, God saw to it that the facts were permanently recorded, and He would make good use of them at the right time. God was allowing the circumstances to prepare the way for His ultimate plan of using these two Jewish exiles to set the stage for saving the Jewish people.

### *Treasures of the Heart*

*...Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.*

*Esther 2:15*



## Esther 2:5-14

5 In Shushan the citadel there was a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite. 6 Kish had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been captured with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. 7 And Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

8 So it was, when the king's command and decree were heard, and when many young women were gathered at Shushan the citadel, under the custody of Hegai, that Esther also was taken to the king's palace, into the care of Hegai the custodian of the women. 9 Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favor; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women.

10 Esther had not revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal it. 11 And every day Mordecai paced in front of the court of the women's quarters, to learn of Esther's welfare and what was happening to her.

12 Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months' preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women. 13 Thus prepared, each young woman went to the king, and she was given whatever she desired to take with her from the women's quarters to the king's palace. 14 In the evening she went, and in the morning she returned to the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who kept the concubines. She would not go in to the king again unless the king delighted in her and called for her by name.

**Dig Deeper** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson

What lesson can I draw from my observations? A lesson is a general principle or basic truth drawn from the passage. **Note** the verse you took the lesson from. (aim for 10 words or less)

Esther 2:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
verse \_\_\_\_\_

Esther 2:5-14 \_\_\_\_\_  
verse \_\_\_\_\_

Esther 2:15-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
verse \_\_\_\_\_

Esther 2:19-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
verse \_\_\_\_\_

## Application

**Pray!** – Simply state how you will apply each lesson. Is there a challenge, a command, a warning or an example? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What is God saying (to me) through this truth? What am I going to do practically in response to God's Word? (aim for 10 words or less)

Esther 2:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

Esther 2:5-14 \_\_\_\_\_

Esther 2:15-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Esther 2:19-23 \_\_\_\_\_

## Words or repeated phrases

Repeated words help us discover the **main point**.

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## Getting the point!

State the "Main Point" of each section. See if you can boil down the meaning of each section into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try)

Esther 2:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

Esther 2:5-14 \_\_\_\_\_

Esther 2:15-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Esther 2:19-23 \_\_\_\_\_

## Main idea

**Simply state** the main idea of the whole passage in one or two sentences.

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### Title

State the main point of the entire passage in the form of a title.

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## Flex Your Muscles

Find a New Testament example of this Old Testament truth.

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## Time to stand

**Time to think:** How will we know how to respond to life's ups and downs? God's Word is always the basis of our choices. Knowing who He is helps us face whatever circumstances we find ourselves in. **What did you learn about God, that will help you stand firm...in such a time as this?**

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### *Radiating His Truth*

*God is preparing His heroes, and when the opportunity comes, He can fit them into their places in a moment, and the world will wonder where they came from."*

*A. B. Simpson*





