

TWO QUEENS
--Esther 1:10-2:18--

INTRODUCTION:

We learned last Sunday as we look at the first nine verses that Ahasuerus, the king, is a picture of the soul of man, which comprises the mind, emotions, and will. The capital city of Susa represents man's physical body in which all man's decisions and actions will be most immediately felt. The Media-Persia empire represents the sphere of influence each man has in his life. In the very last verse of our passage, we met the beautiful Queen Vashti and learned that she was a picture of man's spirit, which is so closely bound to man's soul that no division or separation can be seen. The queen bound by marriage to the king depicts the place of fellowship, refreshment, and communion with God which is intimately related to the soul. This morning we will meet two more characters that are important to the rest of the history of the book of Esther.

I. QUEEN VASHTI DEPOSED (Esther 1:10-22)

- a. The first nine verses of this chapter were filled with joy as Ahasuerus displayed the _____ of his royal glory and the _____ of his great majesty.
- b. A tragic _____ leading to a tragic action which in the end destroyed the peace of the whole kingdom.
- c. In what is described here we have a picture of the _____ of man.
- d. When the queen refused to do what the king had commanded, instead of acknowledging the selfish pride that had made him act so foolishly, the king in his _____ and wrath called for his counselors and asked them what should be _____ to a queen who does not respond to the king's command.
- e. If we compare this to our own lives, this unalterable law is known as the "law of sin and _____."
- f. So, the human spirit became dark and unresponsive, and man entered upon a lonely _____ that has characterized him ever since.

g. But there is One who can _____ what has happened to man.

II. SEARCH FOR A NEW QUEEN (Esther 2:1-14)

- a. After returning from defeat in Greece the king _____ Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her.
- b. The king's attendants make a suggestion that the king have all the beautiful young virgins of the empire _____ up and brought to the citadel of Susa.
- c. These two are Mordecai and his cousin who he has adopted as his daughter, her Hebrew name is _____, her Persian name is Esther.
- d. Though Mordecai is really Esther's _____, we read that after the death of her own father and mother, Mordecai took her or _____ her and raised her as his own daughter.
- e. When the decree went out for the beautiful young virgins to be gathered into the king's harem, _____ was taken being beautiful of form and face.

III. ESTHER CROWNED QUEEN (Esther 2:15-18)

- a. Finally, the day came when it was Esther's _____.
- b. We read that the king loved Esther more than all the women and he set upon her head the sign of royal authority and she became his _____.
- c. This new queen had an immediate _____ throughout the whole empire.

CONCLUSION:

Do you remember when you became a Christian? Did you discover at that time what Paul meant when he wrote these words in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV) When you put your faith in Christ was there the sense of the lifting of the burden of sin and an enjoyment of God's royal gifts such as you never dreamed of? This is an experience that is available to all.