

WEDNESDAY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Christ Church, Crouch End Hill

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No: 36

THERE SHE GOES MISS PERSIA

ESTHER 2

Introduction

Woven through the tapestry of this wonderful story we find at least three timeless lessons thus far. The first has to do with God's plan. The second has to do with God's purposes. And the third has to do with God's people.

First: God's plans are not hindered when the events of this world are carnal or secular. His presence penetrates, regardless, even the god-less banquet halls of ancient Persia. He is as much at work in other countries of the world, like Iran or China, as He is in Britain and the U.S.A. To doubt that is to draw boundaries around His sovereign control.

Second: God's purposes are not frustrated by moral or marital failures. Isn't that encouraging? Especially, if you have failed morally or martially?

Third: God's people are not excluded from high places because of handicap or hardship.

In the book of Esther God is not mentioned, but he is the key figure in the story. He works through the circumstances to place everything in order so that his plans will be accomplished. God is the director of our lives, puts all the pieces in just the right places and knits everything together. As we look back at different times in our lives, we can see his handprints all over. Our response to him is to look for his hand moving and to trust his direction.

Questions for Discussion

- Read Esther Chapter 2: 1-4. Summarise the plan to find a new queen that King Xerxes put into action.

Read verses 5 - 17.

- How does Esther enter the story and become queen?

- It is mentioned three times that Ester won approval in someone's eyes (vv. 9, 15, 17). What does this tell us about Esther? Can you list 4 or 5 characteristics of strength and dignity in Esther?

- Do you see coincidence or providence at work behind these scenes? How so?

- How does Mordecai enter into the plot of the story (vv 19-23)?

- What does this glimpse of Mordecai's life tell us about his character?

- In your life, what do you see more of: Fate? Chance? Design? Destiny? Explain.
