

I. THE STORY (Esther 2)

INTRODUCTION: IRRESISTIBLE > IMMOVEABLE (c.1; see 1:19)

A. NEW QUEEN WANTED (1f,4; see 1:19)

B. MISS PERSIA PAGEANT PROPOSED (2-4)

C. BACKGROUND ON A STUNNING CONTESTANT (7b; 5-8,15b; see Gen.29:17b)

D. GENERAL PROCEDURE: CONTESTANTS (3,8a; 12-14)

E. SPECIAL CASE: ESTHER (8,9; 15-20)

1. *love, favor, loyalty* (17; see 1:19; see Ps.33:5; Jer.2:2; 31:3)

2. *banquet, holiday, gifts* (18; see 1:3f,5f; see Acts 2:42)

F. CONCLUSION FOR TRANSITION INTO CRISIS

1. *Esther rewarded at the King's side* (12-18; Ps.45:9; see 4:14)

2. *Mordecai owed at the King's gate* (5-7, 10,11; 19-23; see 6:1f)

II. TRUTH & CONSEQUENCES

A. ESTHER SUFFERED UNDER OPPRESSION (2:6,8,16; see Is.53:7,8a; Mk.8:31; 14:43,etc.; Jn.10:18; see 1Pt.4:1f,12f)

B. ESTHER PERSEVERED UNDER OPPRESSION (2:(7,20); 9,15,17; see *(Lk.2:51f)*; Is.53:7b; Mt.26:53,63f; 27:14f; see 1Pt.2:13,18f,21f; 3:1f (*Est.2:17*); Acts 16:1; 2Tm.1:5; 3:14; 1Cor.7:13; see Acts 23:3f)

C. ESTHER BLESSED UNDER OPPRESSION (2:9,15,17; see 14,16/17f (Jer.2:2; 31:3); see Is.53:10f; Acts 2:23/24,33(Ps.45:9); Phil.2:5f/9f; see 1Pt.4:13b,19; 5:6,7;10,11; see 4:13; 1:1; 2:11)