

HOW DID A NICE JEWISH GIRL LIKE YOU END UP IN A PERSIAN PALACE LIKE THIS?

(Esther 2:1-20)

* Proverbs 21:1

I. THE PERSONAL SELECTION OF ESTHER (1: 1-2: 20)

A. The DETHRONING of VASHTI. (1 : 1-22)

B. The DECIDING on ESTHER. (2:1-20)

1. The *lingering loneliness* of the king. (2:1)

* What happens between chapters 1 and 2?

* With the passing of time, what occurs in Xerxes life?

* What can we learn from this?

2. The *creative suggestion* of the servants. (2:2-4)

* What suggestion did the servants make to meet this need?

* How did Ahasuerus respond to this idea?

3. The *surpassing beauty* of Esther. (2:5-15)

* What do we know about Mordecai?

* What do we learn here about Esther's background?

* What was involved in the royal selection process?

* What can we observe here about Esther's character?

* What can we learn about "beauty" from this?

4. The *uncontested choice* to become queen. (2:16-17)

* How did the king respond to Esther?

* Should this encourage believers to be "unequally yoked"?

* What can we learn about God's providence from this?

5. The *great feast* for Queen Esther. (2:18-20)

* How did the king celebrate the selection of a new queen?

* What did Esther keep secret from the king?

* What can we learn about child-training from this?

*How does all of this apply to you?