

ESTHER IS CHOSEN AS QUEEN

Esther 2:1-18

Esther 2

¹Later when the anger of King Xerxes had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her.

²Then the king's personal attendants proposed, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king. ³Let the king appoint commissioners in every province of his realm to bring all these beautiful girls into the harem at the citadel of Susa. Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let beauty treatments be given to them. ⁴Then let the girl who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This advice appealed to the king, and he followed it.

⁵Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, ⁶who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah. ⁷Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.

⁸When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many girls were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. ⁹The girl pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven maids selected from the king's palace and moved her and her maids into the best place in the harem.

¹⁰Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. ¹¹Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem

to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her

¹²Before a girl's turn came to go in to King Xerxes, she had to complete twelve months of beauty treatments prescribed for the women, six months with oil of myrrh and six with perfumes and cosmetics. ¹³And this is how she would go to the king: Anything she wanted was given her to take with her from the harem to the king's palace. ¹⁴In the evening she would go there and in the morning return to another part of the harem to the care of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. She would not return to the king unless he was pleased with her and summoned her by name.

¹⁵When the turn came for Esther (the girl Mordecai had adopted, the daughter of his uncle Abihail) to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her. ¹⁶She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal residence in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

¹⁷Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. ¹⁸And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed gifts with royal liberality

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) What was the king looking for?
5		2.) Who was chosen to be queen?
5		3.) How was Esther treated?
5		4.) Why do you think the king chose Esther to be queen?

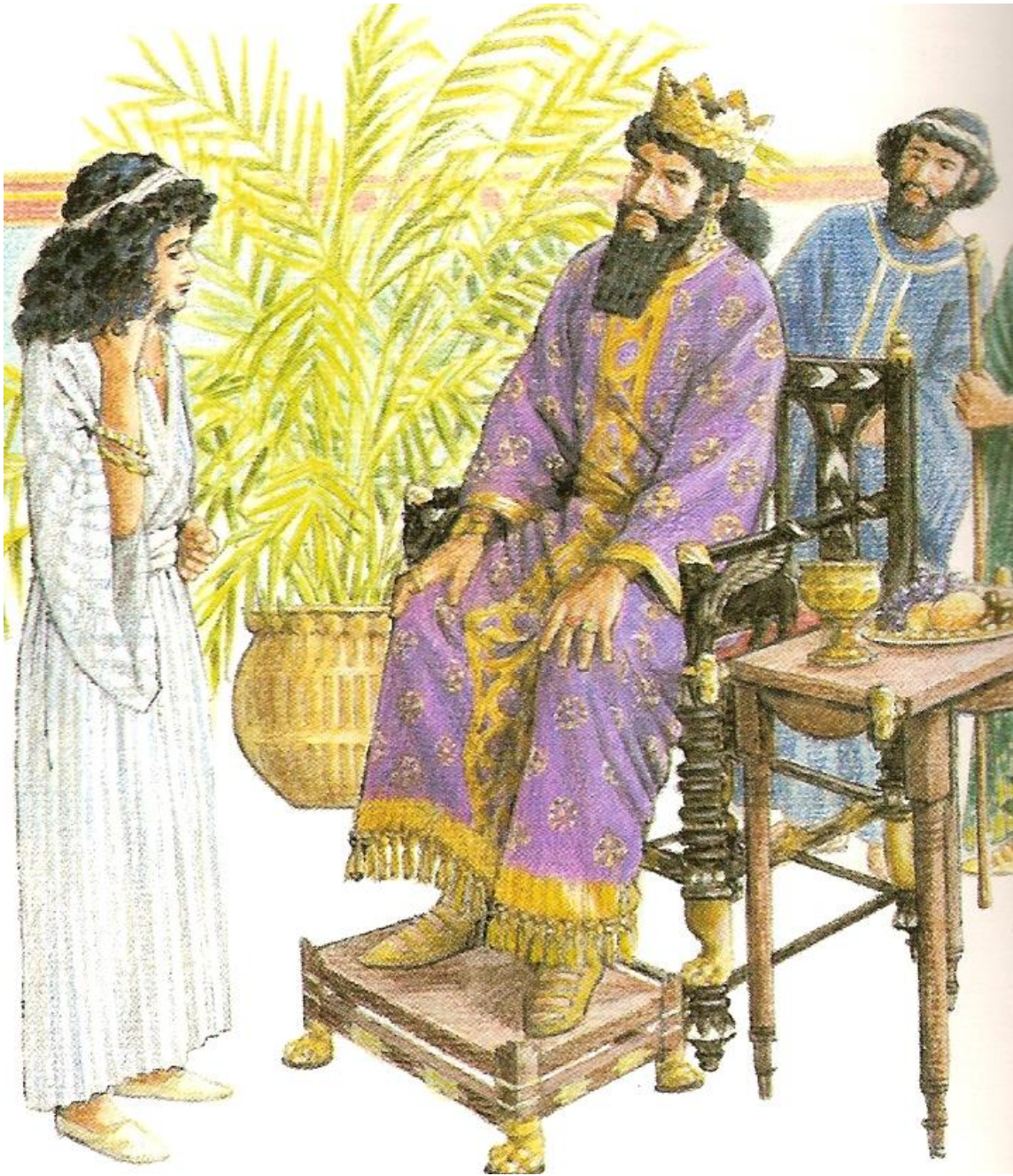
POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>“...a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Proverbs 31:30</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

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King Xerxes chooses Esther to be queen

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CRAFT/ACTIVITY: CROWNS

Students will make crowns to remind them that Esther was chosen as queen.

MATERIALS

1. Paper plates
2. Crayons, Markers, or Colored Pencils
3. Glue
4. Small Hard Candies
5. Glitter
6. Hole Punch
7. Pipe Cleaners



DIRECTIONS

1. Pass out a paper plate to each student.
2. Have students cut the center of the plate as shown above.
3. Allow students to decorate their crowns with hard candies, glitter, markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
4. Punch holes on both sides of the paper plate.
5. Tie a pipe cleaner to each hole.
6. Put the crown on and twist the two pipe cleaners together to keep the crown on the student's head.

FOR DISCUSSION

As students are working on their crowns, inform students that Esther placed her trust in God as she stood up to Haman and requested that King Xerxes save her people (later in the book of Esther). There will be times when our students must place their trust in God so that they might stand up for their beliefs.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

Approximately 15 minutes

MEMORY VERSE

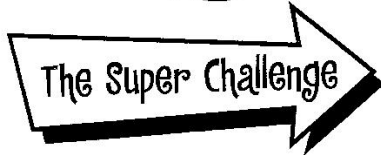
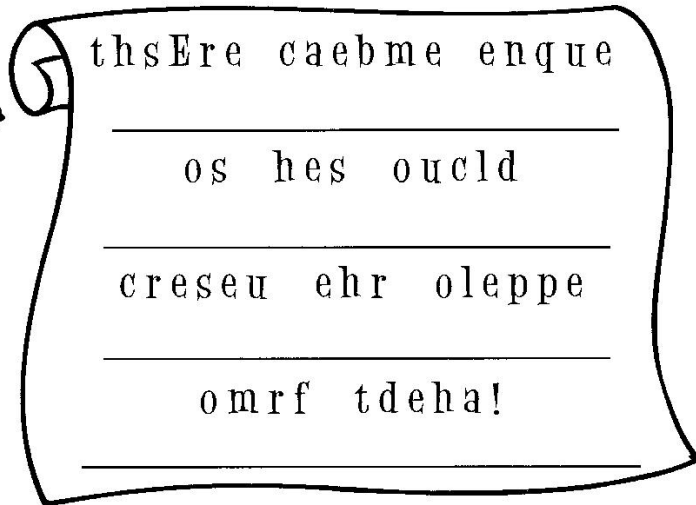
"...a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised." Proverbs 31:30

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Unscramble the letters to find out why it was important for Esther to be queen.



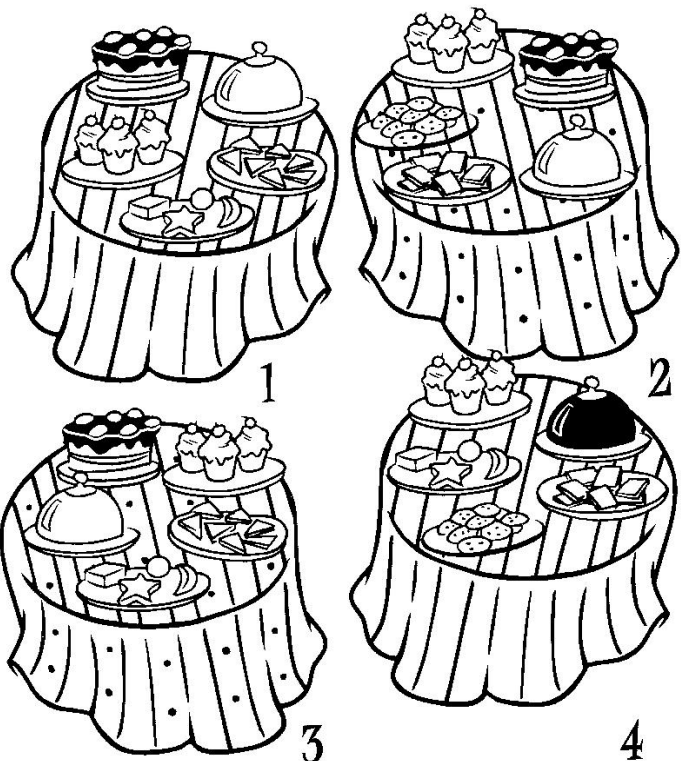
After the people were saved, there was a big party. Some people at the party described Queen Esther's table. Can you pick out the queen's table from the descriptions?

Timothy saw a big cake with dark icing and six dates on it, and a plate of flatbreads on the table.

James said the flatbreads were triangular. There was a white round dessert dome. But his favorite was the three cupcakes.

Ruth said that Esther's table had four special-shaped cakes and a cloth with spots and stripes.

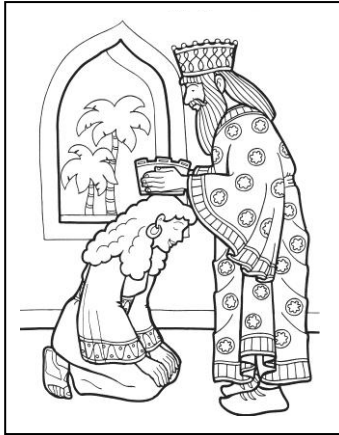
The queen sat at table _____.



THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON ESTHER 2:1-18

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There once was a Jewish man named Mordecai who had a cousin named Esther. Mordecai raised Esther after her

mother and father died.

The king sent orders that the beautiful young women in the kingdom must be brought to his palace. The king was looking for a new queen. Many young women came to live in the king's palace.

Esther was a beautiful young woman who pleased the king. She was given beauty treatments and special food. The king also gave Esther seven maids.

The king was attracted to Esther more than any of the other women. Esther became the queen. So the king gave a great banquet to celebrate. That day was declared a holiday.

For more on this story, read Esther 2:1-18 in your Bible.

QUESTIONS

1. What was the king looking for?
2. Who was chosen to be king?
3. How was Esther treated?
4. Why do you think the king chose Esther to be queen?

MEMORY VERSE

“...a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.” Proverbs 31:30

WORD SEARCH

R I B X O Q K I K W
T E S C P D T A N D
L A I D L S U C R N
L U F I T U A E B H
B M X Q F N H D Y A
H Y A O R T A R K F
S Z O I S H U O I Z
P D S E D A A M N O
W S T F P S X I G E
T Q A U E Q U E E N

BEAUTIFUL
ESTHER
FOOD
KING
MAIDS
MORDECAI
QUEEN