

Pivotal Circumstances
Esther 2:1 – 3:15
January 24, 2012

- I. Introductions
 - A. New Characters
 - 1. Only Xerxes remains
 - 2. We meet
 - B. The Background
 - 1. Vashti deposed
 - 2. King Xerxes
 - 3. Xerxes' Kingdom
 - 4. Unwritten background
 - 5. The point of chapter one
- II. The King Chooses a Queen – Esther 2:1-11
 - A. The Proposal – Vv. 1-4
 - 1. Normal procedure
 - 2. Concubines
 - 3. Sexism
 - 4. Manipulation

III. Mordecai and Esther Introduced – Vv. 5-7

A. Mordecai – Vv. 5-6

1. What we learn
2. Who was taken into exile?
3. The point the author is making

B. Esther (Hadassah) – Vs. 7

1. Two names
2. Subtle allusion?
3. Mordecai's cousin

C. The Edict Carried Out – Vv. 8-11

1. Esther "was taken"
 - a. Against her will?
2. Wins favor
3. Concealed identity
4. Checked daily

D. Ambiguity

1. Again

It is natural to pass judgment on these two (Mordecai and Esther), whether positive or negative, but in doing so we may miss an important point. This deliberate silence is part of the

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