

# **A Pair of Queens**

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Ruth, Esther and Song of Solomon are all about women.
- B. Esther is a curious book in the Bible with no mention of God, heaven or hell.
- C. Esther is real history communicating God's wonderful truth.
- D. The book will be approached through the approach of a parable—laying something alongside to make it clear.
- E. Esther is our story.

## II. Chapters 1-2: a pair of queens.

- A. The story of Esther centers on a queen.
- B. The king's name is not given—only his title.
  - 1. Some say he is Xerxes.
  - 2. He is probably Cyrus though.
  - 3. The kingdom collapses without a queen when a king dies.
  - 4. The story begins with a king cutting off his queen in the midst of a great feast. A man is a king but not by his own right—he is made for the glory of God. (Psalm 8)
- C. When we begin to act in pride, the first thing we do is snap at our loved ones. The king rose up in pride.
- D. The law of sin and death—we have the right to change our choice but not the results once that choice is made. Man became a soulless being when he chose sin. (Romans)

## III. Chapter 3: the story of redeeming grace.

- A. Mordecai is perhaps the most important character in the story as one of God's chosen agents.
  - 1. His name means, "little man" or "humble man."
  - 2. This calls to mind the Spirit of Christ whose task it is to redeem man and restore fellowship with God to him.
- B. Esther is the new queen that symbolizes the new spirit.

1. The story of the Bible is man thinking he is seeking God, all the while God seeking man.
2. By the grace of God Esther was brought to the king—God overruled what the king was looking for.
3. When the king set the sign of royalty upon Esther’s head, you could call this his conversion. Throughout the kingdom, there is an immediate effect.
4. In conversion, there is an incredible lifting of burdens.

C. The life of the king is always at stake—the enemy tries to strike but the enemy is nailed to the tree. (Colossians 2:13)

1. Just as all was recorded in a book for the king, all has been recorded in a book for us—the Bible.
2. This is just the beginning of the life of Esther and the believer who has found new life in Christ.

**Application questions:**

1. How does the king exhibit pride? Why is this a dangerous thing?

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2. How might Mordecai and Esther symbolize figures in our redemption? How does this work itself out?

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3. How can it be said that our conversion of Christ is just the beginning of our life?

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