

III. Conclusion

Well, you can see this is building towards a big climax. Thanks for being with us today and may the Lord bless His word to us as we think about it together. There are some humorous thoughts in this chapter....hope I did not offend you by my mentioning them. Men and women are given distinctive spheres of operation by the Lord but none of them require either to give up personal values and ethics for the amusement of another. Tom Taylor--until tomorrow,

MESSAGE # 5...The Contest--a Search for a New Queen. 2:1-14

I. Introduction:

Hello and thanks again for joining us in our discussions in the book of Esther. I appreciate your listening and if you are in a place where you can have your Bible open before you that is the ideal way of listening. But if you are driving or working around the house or in some project where you cannot stop, then listening is not bad but you will want to read the text for yourself as soon as you are able. The text today is Esther 2:1-14 where we read of the plan for the search for a new queen.

II. Discussion

2:1...."After these things when the wrath of King Ahasuerus was appeased". We have no idea how long that took or what was involved. Some scholars think it was years....not until the Greek campaign was ended (480) but whenever it was, the king remembered the fate of Vashti and the decree. The implication is that he remembered it to his hurt..and that is why we have the action of the next verse.

2:2....The servants who were closest to the king thought it would be good to have a feminine companion although it is put in the plural "young virgins" in the text.

2:3....It was determined that the fair young virgins of the kingdom (immediate territory, I suppose) would be gathered to Shushan and put under the aegis of Hege, the chief chamberlain, having all the necessities of life provided for them.

2:4....and it was suggested that the maiden who most pleased the king should be selected as the replacement for Vashti...the king liked the idea. You see,