

name. If you have hard guesses about what transpired they are probably right. But remember, the maidens had virtually no say in the matter and if they had purposely defiled themselves or something like that...it would likely have led to death or a life more miserable than we can tell. In this masculine dominated society they were regarded rather poorly---unless the king delighted in them.

III. Conclusion

And so for today we must leave our study at this pressing point. You probably know the outcome from some sermon, Sunday School lesson, or your own Bible reading. But it always fascinates me to see it told in detail as far as the Scripture goes and to know that none of these things are purposeless or incidental. There are those who worry about Esther's morality but that has never been a concern to me...I think she was morally straight and it was the high level of her living that eventually reached the heart and mind of this grasping king. But more of that later and thanks for being with us today.

MESSAGE # 6: Esther's Ascendency and Mordecai's "good fortune" **Esther 2:15-23**

I. Introduction:

Greetings in the Lord's name and welcome to another study in the Book of Esther. We are rather plodding along and have gone through the trials of the unhappy Vashti and the gathering of suitable women for the review of the king. We know what the procedure was like and what the potential outcomes might be. We know that Esther's cousin Mordecai is anxious about the affair and we are a little bit nervous about it as well. Our text today is Esther 2:15-23 where we learn about her selection and positioning and we also pick up a piece of information about Mordecai that is of enormous importance..

II. Discussion

2:15...When the women were presented to the king they had the option of taking with them any cosmetics, etc., that might give them an edge in the competition. When it was Esther's turn, she needed nothing. Hege, the chamberlain approved this and, as a matter of course, he was taking something of a chance as well for if she wildly displeased the king it could have reflected unfavorably upon him. But she went as she was and had the favor of all who saw her.