

# Esther 2:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house.

## Analysis

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**Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house.** When each maiden's appointed time came, she could request whatever she wished (kol asher tomar, כֹּל אֲשֶׁר-תֹּאמַר) to accompany her—jewelry, cosmetics, perfumes, clothing—to maximize her attractiveness and chances of pleasing the king. This detail highlights the competitive nature of the selection and the candidates' limited agency: they could choose accessories, but not whether to participate or when to appear. The movement "out of the house of the women unto the king's house" emphasizes the transition from preparation to decisive encounter. For most candidates, this would be their only night with the king before permanent assignment to the concubines' quarters. Everything depended on that single opportunity.

## Historical Context

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The freedom to choose any desired items from the royal treasury demonstrates Persian imperial generosity and abundance. Candidates could select from elaborate jewelry, luxurious fabrics, exotic perfumes, and other precious items—whatever they believed would most please the king. This detail also reveals the candidates' vulnerability: they had to guess the king's preferences without knowing him personally. Most would choose elaborate adornments, believing more luxury meant greater appeal. Esther's contrasting simplicity (v. 15)—accepting

only what Hegai advised—demonstrated either genuine humility or shrewd trust in expert counsel, both providentially guided qualities.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does the contrast between elaborate self-promotion and simple trust in wise counsel teach about how God's servants should approach opportunities?
2. How does the candidates' situation—limited agency, one crucial opportunity, uncertain outcome—parallel moments when believers must trust God's providence in high-stakes situations beyond their control?

## Interlinear Text

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וְכָל הַ	הַנְּעָרָה הַ	לָב וָאֵל	הַמֶּלֶךְ:	אֵת	כָּל	אִשׁ רַ
H2088	every maiden H5291	Then thus came H935	H413 unto the king H4428	H853	H3605	H834
תַּאֲמַר	יִנָּתֶן	לָהּ	לָב וָאֵל	עַמָּה הַ	בֵּית	
whatsoever she desired H559	was given H5414	H0	Then thus came H935	H5973	house H1004	
הַנָּשִׁים	עַד	בֵּית יֵת	הַמֶּלֶךְ:			
of the women H802	H5704	house H1004	unto the king H4428			