

Esther 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

Analysis

Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her. The formal reintroduction—"Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai"—reminds readers of her identity and Mordecai's adoptive role before her crucial encounter. Esther's choice to "require nothing" except what Hegai appointed demonstrates remarkable humility and wisdom. While other candidates likely requested elaborate jewelry and luxury items, Esther trusted expert counsel over personal judgment. This simplicity proved strategic: Hegai knew the king's preferences better than the candidates did. Esther's trust in wise counsel reflects spiritual wisdom—dependence on God's providence through appointed means rather than self-reliant manipulation. The result: "Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her"—not just the king, but everyone. This universal favor signals divine blessing.

Historical Context

Hegai's expertise came from years managing the king's women and observing his preferences. His advice would have been invaluable—he knew what genuinely appealed to Ahasuerus versus what candidates assumed would appeal. Esther's trust in his counsel demonstrated both humility (not presuming she knew better) and wisdom (recognizing expertise). The statement that she found favor with "all them that looked upon her" suggests her appeal transcended mere physical beauty—her character, demeanor, and bearing impressed everyone. This detail also indicates that many people witnessed her selection process, making her eventual queenship more credible and accepted. The universal favor prefigures her later ability to influence both the king (chapters 5-8) and the broader Jewish community (chapter 9).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Esther's trust in wise counsel over self-direction model spiritual wisdom and dependence on God's appointed means of guidance?
2. What does her universal favor teach about how godly character and demeanor can transcend cultural, ethnic, and religious boundaries in winning respect?

Interlinear Text

וְבָהָגּוּ יְעַמֵּד	תֵּר	אֲסֹתָר	לְבָת	אֲבִיםִיל
was come	Now when the turn	And Esther	her for his daughter	of Abihail
H5060	H8447	H635	H1323	H32
דָּד	מִרְדָּכָי	אֲשֶׁר	לְקַח	לְבָת
the uncle	of Mordecai	who had taken	her for his daughter	
H1730	H4782	H3947	H0	H1323
אֶל	לְבָת	לְאֶל	בְּקַשָּׁה	אֶת
to go in	the king's	but what Hegai	she required	nothing
H935	H413	H3808	H1245	H3588
אָשָׁר	הָגֵי	הָגֵי	רַבִּיר	אָמֵן
appointed	chamberlain	the king's	the keeper	
H834	H5631	H4428	H8104	
יְמִינָם	לְבָת	לְבָת	בְּעֵינֵי	כָּל
of the women	And Esther	obtained	favour	in the sight
H802	H1961	H635	H5375	H2580
רָאִיתִם:				
of all them that looked				
H7200				

Additional Cross-References

Esther 2:3 (Kingdom): And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them:

Song of Solomon 6:9: My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.

Acts 7:10 (Kingdom): And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Esther 9:29 (Parallel theme): Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim.

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