

Esther 2:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

Analysis

So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. The specific chronological marker—"the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year"—indicates approximately four years after Vashti's removal in year three (1:3). This extended timeline accommodated Xerxes' Greek campaign (480 BCE) and the elaborate candidate selection process. The passive voice "Esther was taken" maintains emphasis on providence rather than human agency—she didn't seize this opportunity but was carried by circumstances beyond her control. The timing proves providentially perfect: not too early (before the mechanism existed for her to help her people) nor too late (after Haman's plot might have been irrevocable). God's providence operates with perfect timing, positioning His servants exactly when and where needed.

Historical Context

Tebeth corresponds to December-January, making this a winter month when the court would be in Shushan rather than summer capitals like Persepolis or Ecbatana. The seventh year of Ahasuerus/Xerxes' reign was approximately 479/478 BCE, shortly after his disastrous defeat in Greece at Salamis (480 BCE) and Plataea (479 BCE). The military humiliation and enormous casualties may have left the king especially receptive to the distraction and consolation of a beautiful new queen. God's providence uses even military defeats and political

crises to position His servants. The four-year gap between Vashti's removal and Esther's coronation demonstrates that God's timing, though sometimes lengthy from human perspective, perfectly accomplishes His purposes.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the extended timeline (four years from Vashti's removal to Esther's selection) teach patience in trusting God's providence when His purposes unfold slowly?
2. What does the specific timing—after Xerxes' military defeat—suggest about how God uses even disasters to create openness for His redemptive purposes?

Interlinear Text

בִּ יְהֹוָה	אֶל	אַחֲשִׁירֹוּשׁ	פֶּתַח	לְגַם	רַא	וַתִּلְקַח	נָ	אֲסֹתָה	אֶל	וְתַלְקַח	נָ
was taken	So Esther	H413	unto king	H4428	Ahasuerus	H325	into his house	H413			H1004
H3947	H635										
בְּשִׁנְנַת	טְבֵבָת	חֶדֶשׁ	הָוָא	קָעֵשֵׁר	י	חֶדֶשׁ	טְבֵבָת	בְּשִׁנְנַת			
of his reign	month	in the tenth	H1931			month	Tebeth	year			
H4438	H2320	H6224				H2320	H2887	H8141			
לְמַלְכֹּותָן	שׁ	בָּעֵד									
in the seventh	of his reign	H4438									
H7651											

Additional Cross-References

Esther 8:9 (Kingdom): Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.

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