

# Esther 2:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.

## Analysis

**Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.** The repetition of Esther's concealment (first stated in v. 10) emphasizes its importance and her continued obedience even after becoming queen. The phrase "Esther did the commandment of Mordecai" (ta'as Ester et-ma'amar Mordekhai, תָּשָׁעַת מָמָר מְרַדְּכָי) uses strong language suggesting authoritative instruction, not mere suggestion. The comparison "like as when she was brought up with him" indicates Esther maintained the habits of obedience and respect formed during her upbringing. This detail proves crucial: her continued responsiveness to Mordecai's guidance will enable their coordinated response when crisis comes (chapter 4). The relationship of trust and obedience established in ordinary times prepared them for extraordinary crisis.

## Historical Context

Ancient honor-shame cultures emphasized obedience to parental or guardian authority even into adulthood. Esther's continued deference to Mordecai despite being queen demonstrates cultural values of filial piety and loyalty. Her concealment of Jewish identity remained strategic: premature disclosure might create hostility or complications before God's timing. That she maintained this discretion even after becoming queen—when she might have felt secure enough to reveal her identity—shows remarkable discipline and trust in Mordecai's wisdom.

The narrative presents this sustained obedience positively, suggesting the authors viewed it as commendable faithfulness rather than problematic deception.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does Esther's sustained obedience to Mordecai model the importance of maintaining faithful relationships and habits formed in preparation seasons?
2. What does this teach about the strategic nature of wise timing in disclosure versus the importance of eventual truthfulness when circumstances require it?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּאָשֶׁר רָעָתָה רְאִי  
H369      Esther      had not yet shewed      her kindred      H853      nor her people      H834

מְרַדְכָּי  
H5921      as Mordecai      H853      the commandment      as Mordecai  
had charged      H6680      H4782      H3982      H4782

אָתָה: בָּאָמֵן הִכִּיַּת הַכִּאָשֶׁר עָשָׂה הָאָסֵת רָאִי  
H854      H545  
Esther      did      H834      H1961      like as when she was brought up  
H635      H6213

## Additional Cross-References

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**Esther 2:10** (Parallel theme): Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.

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