

# 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

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**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, תַּעֲשֶׂה אֶסְתֵּר אֶת־מִצְוַת מֹרְדֵכַי) 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

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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

**Psalms 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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כְּאִשָּׁר	עַמָּהּ	וְאֶת	מִוְלָדֶתָהּ	מִגְדָּתָהּ	אֶסְתֵּר	אֵין
H834	H5971	H853	H4138	H5046	H635	H369
nor her people		her kindred	had not yet shewed	Esther		
מִדְּבָרֶיהָ	מִצְוַת	וְאֶת	מִדְּבָרֶיהָ	עַל יְהוָה	צָוָהּ	
H4782	H3982	H853	H4782	H5921	H6680	
as Mordecai	the commandment	as Mordecai		did	Esther	
אֶתָּוָה:	בְּאֵמֶנָה	הֵיטָה	כְּאִשָּׁר	רַעֲשָׁהּ	אֶסְתֵּר	רַעֲשָׁהּ
H854	H545	H1961	H834	H6213	H635	
	like as when she was brought up					

## 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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