

# Esther 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.

## Analysis

**And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.** Esther's immediate favor with Hegai demonstrates God's providence at work. The phrase "pleased him" (vatissa chen, וַתִּשְׂסָה חֵן) literally means "she lifted up grace"—found unmerited favor. The Hebrew chesed (חֶסֶד, "kindness") is covenant love language, showing that even pagan officials' benevolence serves God's purposes. Hegai's preferential treatment—swift provision of cosmetics, assignment of seven maidens (the number of completeness), and "the best place"—positioned Esther advantageously from the start. This pattern repeats throughout Esther: she consistently finds favor before everyone she encounters (2:15, 17; 5:2, 8; 7:3; 8:5). This isn't mere charm or beauty but divine providence securing human favor for redemptive purposes.

## Historical Context

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Hegai wielded significant power as keeper of the women, controlling resources, assignments, and access. His favor could dramatically improve a maiden's chances with the king. The provision of "seven maidens" as personal attendants indicates elite treatment—most candidates likely received minimal assistance. The "best place of the house of the women" probably meant superior quarters: better ventilation, privacy, proximity to bathing facilities, or other advantages. Ancient sources describe competitive dynamics in royal harems, where positioning, relationships, and resources significantly impacted success. Hegai's immediate preferential treatment of Esther gave her enormous advantage, demonstrating how God works through human favor and institutional structures.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Esther's pattern of consistently finding favor illustrate God's sovereign governance of human relationships and attitudes?
2. When have you experienced unexpected favor that, in retrospect, positioned you for service to God's purposes?

## Interlinear Text

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וְתִיטֵב ב	נַעֲרוֹת יְהוָה	בְּעֵינָיו	וְתִשָּׂא אֵלָיו	חֲסִד	לְפָנָיו
pleased	And the maiden	him and she obtained	kindness	of him	
H3190	H5291	H5869	H5375	H2617	H6440
וַיְבֵהֵל	אֶת	תְּמָרוֹק יְהוָה	וְאֶת		
and he speedily	her her things for purification				
H926	H853	H8562	H853		
מְנוֹתָ הָ	לָתַת	לָהּ	וְאֶת	שִׁבְעָה	
with such things as belonged	gave	to her and seven			
H4490	H5414	H0	H853	H7651	
נַעֲרוֹת יְהוָה	הָרָאִי וְ	לָתַת	בֵּית יְהוָה	הֵמָּה	לְהוֹצִיאָהּ
And the maiden	which were meet	gave	house	her out of the king's	
H5291	H7200	H5414	H1004	H4428	
וַיִּשְׁנֶה ה'	וְאֶת	נַעֲרוֹת יְהוָה	לְטוֹב	בֵּית יְהוָה	הַנָּשִׁים:
and he preferred	And the maiden	unto the best	house	of the women	
H8138	H5291	H2896	H1004	H802	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 16:7** (Parallel theme): When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

**Genesis 39:21** (Parallel theme): But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

**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:

**Esther 2:12** (Kingdom): Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the

women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;)

**Daniel 1:9** (Parallel theme): Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

**Ezra 7:6** (Kingdom): This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.

**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.

**Psalms 106:46** (Parallel theme): He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives.

**1 Kings 8:50** (Parallel theme): And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them: