

Esther 2:1-18 (ESV)

After these things, when the anger of King Ahasuerus had abated, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her. 2 Then the king's young men who attended him said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king.



Esther 2:1-18 (ESV)

3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the beautiful young virgins to the harem in Susa the citadel, under custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women. Let their cosmetics be given them. 4 And let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This pleased the king, and he did so.



Esther 2:1-18 (ESV)

5 Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite, 6 who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away.



Esther 2:1-18 (ESV)

7 He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

Hadassah – Hebrew for fragrance (myrtle)

Esther – Persian for Star




Esther 2:1-18 (ESV)

8 So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women. 9 And the young woman pleased him and won his favor.



Esther 2:1-18 (ESV)

And he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and her portion of food, and with seven chosen young women from the king's palace, and advanced her and her young women to the best place in the harem. 10 Esther had not made known her people or kindred, for Mordecai had commanded her not to make it known. 11 And every day Mordecai walked in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and what was happening to her.



Esther 2:1-18 (ESV)

*12 Now when the turn came for each young woman to go in to King Ahasuerus, after being twelve months under the regulations for the women, since this was the regular period of their beautifying, six months with oil of myrrh and six months with spices and ointments for women—
13 when the young woman went in to the king in this way, she was given whatever she desired to take with her from the harem to the king's palace.*



Esther 2:1-18 (ESV)

15 When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her.



Esther 2:1-18 (ESV)

16 And when Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, 17 the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.



Esther 2:1-18 (ESV)

18 Then the king gave a great feast for all his officials and servants; it was Esther's feast. He also granted a remission of taxes to the provinces and gave gifts with royal generosity.



A Word of Caution About the Account of Esther

- Don't be too critical
 - ✓ Captive/exile
 - ✓ Orphan
 - ✓ Under Mordecai's direction
 - ✓ Fearful



A Word of Caution About the Account of Esther

- Don't be too accommodating

*Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. **17** If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. **18** But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."*

Daniel 3:16-18 (ESV)



Lessons Regarding Being In the World But Not of the World

If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

John 15:19 (ESV)



Lessons Regarding Being In the World But Not of the World

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

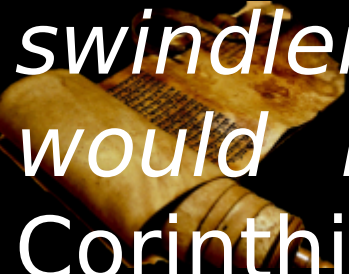
John 17:14-16 (ESV)



Lessons Regarding Being In the World But Not of the World

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 1 John 2:17 (ESV)

*I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—**10** not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 1 Corinthians 5:9-10 (ESV)*



Lessons Regarding Being In the World But Not of the World

*Religion that God our Father
accepts as pure and faultless is this:
to look after orphans and widows in
their distress and to keep oneself
from being polluted by the world.*

James 1:27 (ESV)



Lessons Regarding Being In the World But Not of the World

1. “In” the world: It’s our point of location*
2. “Of” the world: It’s our source of information/values*



*Adapted from J. Warner Wallace, Christian Apologist,
coldcasechristianity.com

Lessons Regarding Being In the World But Not of the World

The Big Lesson:

If God can use Esther and Mordecai
with their shortcomings...

He certainly can use us, too!

