



Sunday Morning Sermon (by Ray Reynolds)

January 8, 2017

"THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD"

TEXT: Esther 2



Introduction: We take planning seriously. This book reveals an anti-Semitic plan (genocide of the Jews). What we realize is that God is already planning to save His nation from extinction. This plan was in place long before the Jews were even aware of the threat. Interwoven into this part of the story will be the military campaigns of Ahasuerus, the deposed ex-Queen Vashti (and prince Artaxerxes), a grand pageant, and the Cinderella-like story of Hadassah. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. *The Supervision of Esther (Esther 2:1-7)*

- ◆ Mordecai took his responsibility seriously.
- ◆ Mordecai took his authority seriously.
- ◆ Mordecai took his guardianship seriously.

II. *The Spirit of Esther (Esther 2:8-9)*

- ◆ Esther had an attractive spirit.
- ◆ Esther had a humble spirit.
- ◆ Esther had a teachable spirit.

III. *The Secrets of Esther (Esther 2:10-11)*

- ◆ Esther's mysterious background.
- ◆ Esther's religious background.
- ◆ Esther's family background.

IV. *The Selection of Esther (Esther 2:12-23)*

- ◆ God's plan to select Esther.
- ◆ God's man (and God's woman) are selected.
- ◆ God's work is set into motion.

Conclusion: The providence of God is clearly seen in this chapter. This story is more than just a providential pageant. It is about how you approach the royal throne. The people had to respect the king and his position. Think about the judgment seat of the Lord. **II Corinthians 5:10** says, "*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*" Are you ready to approach that throne?