Esther, Part 1

Esther 1:10-12 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on. But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

Esther 1:19 If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.

Esther 2:3-4 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: And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.

Vashti
* "beautiful" – pictures Israel's rejection of God's will for them
* All other nations bowed before the King, but she rejected him
* She knew what the King was like, but lived outside his presence
* Rebellion of world inconsequential, but not rebellion of God's people

He didn't invite an elite bloodline, but invited "whosoever will"
"If you love the King, You can get to know Him!"

Deuteronomy 32:20-21 And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith. They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

1 Peter 2:9-10 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Ephesians 2:12-13 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

The King wants a bride that can show the world a different response to His commands!

The King brought them to His palace to "test" them – they experienced the King's goodness, but they were not the Bride yet!

Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

The King didn't want another woman who just wanted Him for what He could give – He refused to marry another rebellious woman!

A year of preparation (2:12) for one night with the King!
"I know the King" – yes, but does the King know you?!
God is not obligated until He calls you by name (2:14)
When Esther got the King, she got the riches of the kingdom anyway!

Hadassah
* "myrtle tree"
* You can only grow so tall
* You cannot move from where life has planted you
* She was an orphan

Esther
* "star" - even the night can't put out your light!

Mordecai – preacher – brings Esther to the King, saw her destiny
Hegai – the Word – had insight into the King, Esther submitted

Despite what every other woman did, Esther trusted them!
Every true man of God will push you from Himself and closer to the Word

John 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless ("ORPHANS"): I will come to you.

You're not an orphan anymore – He is the King, but you are His Queen!
I AM (already) what God says I am!

Romans 4:17 ... [God] calleth those things which be not as though they were.