

# God, Unseen but Present

## Part 1: Esther Chapters 1-2

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### BIG IDEA

Even when God is not mentioned, He is actively working behind the scenes to accomplish His purposes.

### Read Esther Chapters 1–2

Chapter 1 introduces King Xerxes' (Ahasuerus) lavish kingdom and the removal of Queen Vashti after she refuses his command. Chapter 2 describes the search for a new queen, leading to Esther's rise to the throne and Mordecai's discovery of a plot against the king.

### OUTLINE OF ESTHER CHAPTERS 1-2

#### I. The King's Power and Vashti's Refusal (1:1–22)

- A. The king's extravagant feast (1:1–9)
- B. Vashti refuses the king's command (1:10–12)
- C. The king's response and royal decree (1:13–22)

#### II. Esther Becomes Queen (2:1–18)

- A. Search for a new queen (2:1–4)
- B. Introduction of Esther and Mordecai (2:5–7)
- C. Esther finds favor (2:8–15)
- D. Esther crowned queen (2:16–18)

#### III. Mordecai's Faithfulness (2:19–23)

- A. Mordecai uncovers a plot (2:21–22)
- B. The event is recorded (2:23)

## **OBSERVATIONS (WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?)**

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- God is never mentioned in these chapters.
- The king makes decisions based on impulse and advice from others.
- Vashti shows courage but loses her position.
- Esther is described as beautiful and favored, but also obedient to Mordecai.
- Mordecai's good deed is recorded but not immediately rewarded.

## **INTERPRETATION (WHAT DOES IT MEAN?)**

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- God's silence does not mean His absence. He is orchestrating events quietly.
- The removal of Vashti sets the stage for Esther's rise—God is positioning people.
- Esther's favor with others points to God's unseen hand.
- Mordecai's unrewarded act reminds us that faithfulness is not always immediately recognized.

## **APPLICATION (WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?)**

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- Trust God even when you don't see Him working.
- Be faithful in small, unseen moments—God is keeping record.
- God can use ordinary circumstances to accomplish extraordinary purposes.
- Position and influence are opportunities to serve God's plan.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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1. What stands out most to you in these chapters?
2. Why do you think God is not mentioned in Esther?
3. What can we learn from Vashti's decision?
4. How does Esther's obedience to Mordecai shape her story?
5. How do you see God working "behind the scenes" in these chapters?

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

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- What is one area of your life where God may be working unseen?
- What is one step of faithfulness you can take this week?

## RELATED SCRIPTURES

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- Proverbs 21:1 — God directs the king’s heart
- Romans 8:28 — God works all things for good
- Galatians 6:9 — Do not grow weary in doing good

## THE BOTTOM LINE

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In Esther Chapters 1–2, God is not visible, but He is unmistakable. Or even more simply: “When events align perfectly for God’s purposes, His presence is implied—even if not stated.”

Remember:

- When life feels random → God is still arranging
- When nothing seems spiritual → God is still active
- When you feel unnoticed → God is still positioning

***Esther teaches us to trust what we cannot see!***