

God's At Work Even When We Don't See It: An Exposition

of Ruth and Esther #8

There She Is....Your Ideal!

Esther 2:1-22

I. And The Winner Is... 2:1-16

A. Four Years Later VS 1-6

- After a humiliating defeat in Greece
- Lonely – where's my wife
- Let's get you a new one from the most beautiful virgins in the Empire
- Conscripted – willingly or not
- A year at the spa with the royal Vidal Sassoon!

B. The two main characters VS 5-7

- Mordecai
- Esther

C. The uniqueness of Esther VS 8-9

- Her beauty
- Her character

D. The skeleton in the closet VS 10-11

E. The rules of the contest VS 12-14

F. Esther's turn VS 15-16

- Takes advice well
- She is chosen

II. A Marriage Made In...Susa VS 2:17-20

A. Love in one night VS 17

B. Celebration for Esther VS 18

C. New position for Mordecai

III. The Stage Is Set VS 2:21-23

A. Danger in the Palace VS 21

B. Mordecai to the rescue VS 22

C. The plot thwarted VS 23a

D. Mordecai not thanked, but remembered VS23b

IV. Thoughts

A. Deliverance for God's people

- Israel
 - The Church
- } Good vs. evil

B. Being in but not of the culture

- Issues for Esther
- For us

C. Relating faith to culture

D. The story as illustration not example

E. God's mysterious working