



**International Baptist Church Eindhoven**

Your Christian Family Away From Home

# GOD'S PROVISION THROUGH IMPERFECT PEOPLE

## Esther 2

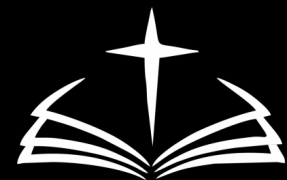
# THE BOOK OF ESTHER

- It's not about good people saving Jews from certain genocide
- But about a good God accomplishing His saving work through imperfect people in a broken world



# 4 YEARS LATER... (VS 1)

- Xerxes came to realize what he had lost: his wife and a war (against Greece)
- When you're in it for your own glory, you end up losing
  - are we in it for God's or our own glory?



# THE WORLDLY SOLUTION (VS 2-4)

## The worldly solution:

- Use and abuse more women (and/or...) to fill up the emptiness
- But by all means, do not repent!
  - Do we repent willingly?



# GOD IS AT WORK IN THE MESS (VS 5-7)

- Mordecai and Esther enter the scene
- Mordecai is a descendent from king Saul
- Esther is an orphan raised by her older cousin
- Carried away by king Nebuchadnezzar
- They really should have gone back to Jerusalem already... with Zurababel according to prophet Isaiah



# GOD'S IMPERFECT PEOPLE (VS 8-11)

- Esther also taken into Kings palace and put in Kings harem
  - She was being trained to sexually satisfy the king
  - She did so well that Hegai advanced her to the top
  - She did not make known that she was a Jew
  - She did not keep the law (like Daniel for example)
- This is not the Esther most of us remember from Sunday school
  - Yet, God is working out His redemptive plan
  - Is our faith also public or more private?
  - Which compromises are we making regarding worldly opportunities?



# THE WORLD MEASURES BY LOOKS & PERFORMANCE, GOD MEASURES THE HEART (VS 12-17A)

## King Xerxes / The world:

- Measures by looks (vs 12-13)
  - Our world is no different
- Measures by and rewards performance (vs 14-18)
  - No dating, relationship, interest
  - One night stands to test
  - What Xerxes had in reality many now have digitally (in addition to one night stands and prostitution)
  - It causes big problems and more and more laws are needed to protect the women
  - Esther is rewarded with a crown



# GOD IS WORKING AND IN CONTROL!

**Esther:**

1. Is she a good person?
2. Is she an innocent victim of sexual abuse?
3. Is she not always good but growing?

It seems that Esther wasn't walking with God but that God was still walking with her, giving her favor, changing and saving her heart and life so that she could save His people.

God used Esther to save His people but He first had to save her.





# ESTHER IS A TYPE OF SAVIOUR

- Jesus was also unlikely to be a king
- Jesus was also poor and unknown
- Jesus also grew up in a world full of temptation and sin
- Jesus also saved His people from death
  
- Jesus lived the live we should have lived
- Jesus died the death we deserve
- Jesus conquered the power of satan, sin and death

**JESUS IS A BETTER SAVIOUR!**



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