

HADASSAH

#2, replacing Vashti – Esther 2:1-23

*₁ “Turn out the lights . . . the party’s over” so say the words of the old song. This lesson opens with, “After these things”. The half-year of partying came to a close. The folks that were in charge went back to the provinces and life in the citadel went on almost as before except, Vashti had been banished from the court, new laws written and the king was troubled. His anger being subsided, Ahasuerus tried to make sense of what happened.

After these things when the anger of King Ahasuerus had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her.

2 Then the king’s attendants, who served him, said, “Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king. 3 “Let the king appoint overseers in all the provinces of his kingdom that they may gather every beautiful young virgin to the citadel of Susa, to the harem, into the custody of Hegai, the king’s eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let their cosmetics be given them. 4 “Then let the young lady who pleases the king be queen in place of Vashti.” And the matter pleased the king, and he did accordingly.

the king’s attendants, *₂ OT:5288 (*nah'-ar*); from OT:5287; (concretely) a boy (as active), from the age of infancy to adolescence; by implication, a servant; also (by interch. of sex), a girl (of similar latitude in age):

KJV - babe, boy, child, damsel [from the margin], lad, servant, young (man).

[1.] v:1, Considering people in general, why are they not same in the midst of anger or stress as they are when rested and composed?

[2.] question [1.] As Christians, what can we learn from this to avoid or reduce future difficulties?

[3.] v:2-4, the king’s attendants. Who do you think these sound like! Are these our seven eunuchs, or the “magnificent seven” or are they a new group altogether?

[4.] v:3, gather every beautiful young virgin to the citadel of Susa, to the harem, Decide how you think the king would deal with the obscure possibility that a girl might not want to come to the harem?

- a) He would have councilors soothing the girls possible fears.
- b) He would pay her parents a great deal of money.
- c) He would put a guilt trip on the girl.
- d) He would give her a double portion of cosmetics.
- e) He would have her killed and not give it a second thought.

HADASSAH

#2, replacing Vashti – Esther 2:1-23

5 Now there was at the citadel in Susa a Jew whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite, 6 who had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the captives who had been exiled with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had exiled.

7 He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had no father or mother. Now the young lady was beautiful of form and face, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

8 So it came about when the command and decree of the king were heard and many young ladies were gathered to the citadel of Susa into the custody of Hegai, that Esther was taken to the king's palace into the custody of Hegai, who was in charge of the women.

[5.] v:2, Where would the king find all these folks to work as the king's attendants?

[6.] v:5, What is a Benjamite?

[7.] v:6, What is another name for Jeconiah (I Chron 3:16-17 & II Chron 36:8-10)?

[8.] v:7, How were Hadassah and Mordecai related?

[9.] v:7 again, On your handy-dandy map (next page) mark the location of Mordecai and Hadassah's probable residence?

[10.] v:8, command and decree of the king, OK we're back to this again but why or why don't you feel any of these girls could have just said "no thanks"?

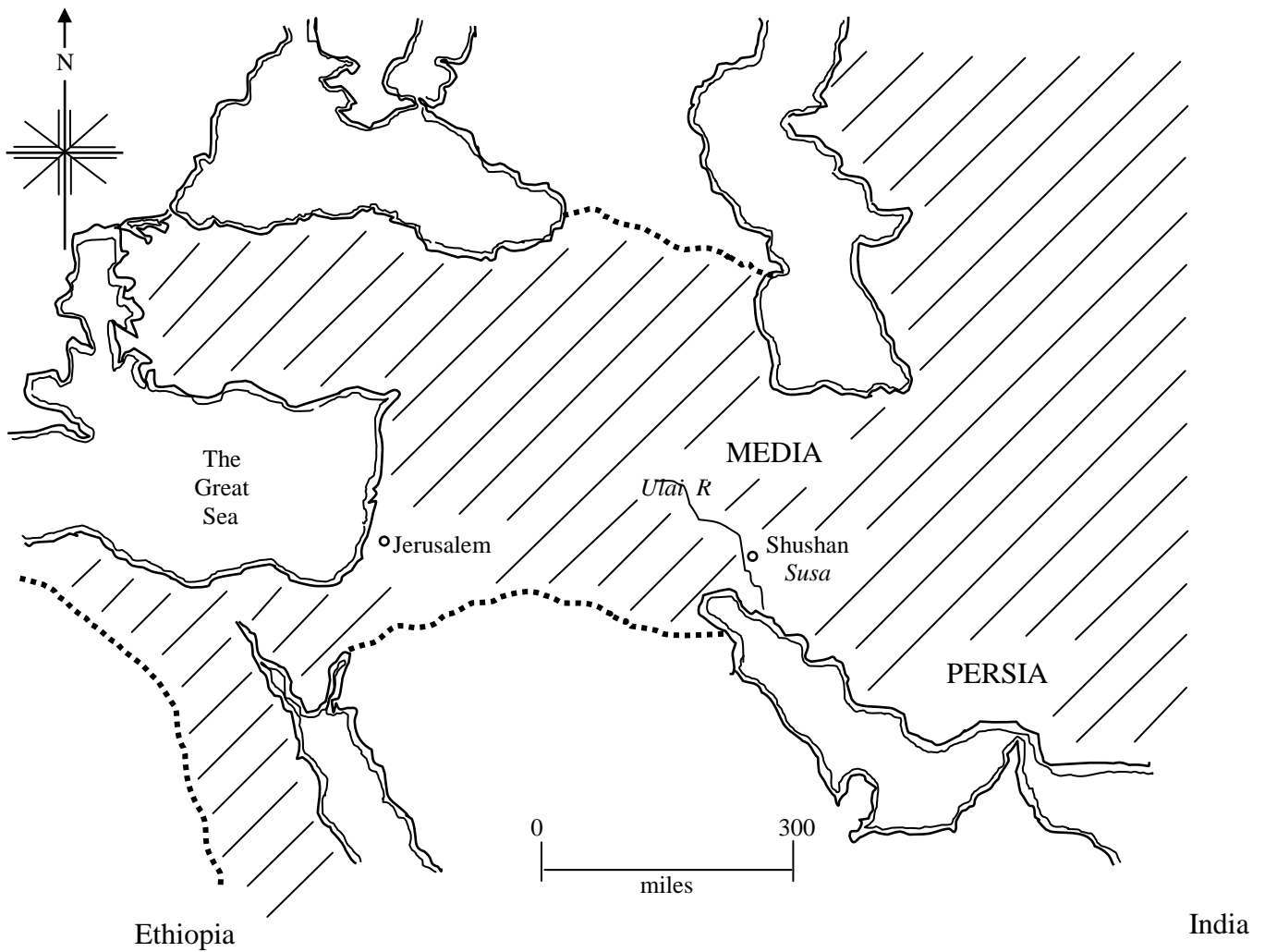
[11.] v:8 again, Do you know of any place in your world where many young ladies have similar experiences?

HADASSAH

#2, replacing Vashti – Esther 2:1-23

[12.] v:8 again, As Christians, when God's word gives us a command and decree, It's OK to say "no thanks" isn't it?

[13.] v:8 last time, In order to do this job, what do you think were Hegai's qualifications?



HADASSAH

#2, replacing Vashti – Esther 2:1-23

9 Now the young lady pleased him and found favor with him. So he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and food, gave her seven choice maids from the king's palace and transferred her and her maids to the best place in the harem.

10 Esther did not make known her people or her kindred, for Mordecai had instructed her that she should not make them known.

11 Every day Mordecai walked back and forth in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and how she fared.

12 Now when the turn of each young lady came to go in to King Ahasuerus, after the end of her twelve months under the regulations for the women – for the days of their beautification were completed as follows: six months with oil of myrrh and six months with spices and the cosmetics for women – 13 the young lady would go in to the king in this way: anything that she desired was given her to take with her from the harem to the king's palace. 14 In the evening she would go in and in the morning she would return to the second harem, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the concubines. She would not again go in to the king unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name.

15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai who had taken her as his daughter, came to go in to the king, she did not request anything except what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the women, advised. And Esther found favor in the eyes of all who saw her. 16 So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus to his royal palace in the tenth month which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

[14.] v:9-11, Describe how Hadassah was probably raised so that she pleased him (Hegai) and found favor with him ?

[15.] v:10, Why would mordecai not want Hadassah to make her people known?

[16.] v:11, Mordecai had been Hadassah's life long protector. In this situation, who was Hadassah's protector?

[17.] v:11, Why or why wouldn't this have been an easy transition for them both?

[18.] v:11 last time, If, for any reason, you find yourself away from your parents or your protector or the good ol' USA, as a Christian, who do you have that never slumbers or sleeps?

[19.] v:12-16, Maybe reading this portion made you as ill as it made me! Why do you think the Lord, in His infinite wisdom, wanted us to be aware of these facts?

HADASSAH

#2, replacing Vashti – Esther 2:1-23

17 The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she found favor and kindness with him more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. 18 Then the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his princes and his servants; he also made a holiday for the provinces and gave gifts according to the king's bounty.

19 When the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate. 20 Esther had not yet made known her kindred or her people, even as Mordecai had commanded her; for Esther did what Mordecai told her as she had done when under his care.

21 In those days, while Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's officials from those who guarded the door, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. 22 But the plot became known to Mordecai and he told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name. 23 Now when the plot was investigated and found to be so, they were both hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the Book of the Chronicles in the king's presence.

[20.] v:17-18, Esther's banquet, If you can't honestly say, "all's well that ends well", what might be bothering you

[21.] How old do you "want" Hadassah to be?

[22.] v:21, (officials, same word as eunuchs) If Bigthan and Teresh were to profile the king, what statements would they include?

[23.] v:21, In this context, what is the meaning of to lay hands on?

[24.] By what channel did the king find out about this plot?

*₁ Lyrics by Willie Nelson

*₂ New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary