

ESTHER – Wise and Courageous *Applying her story to our lives*

Esther's heritage: She was a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin who was taken to Babylon (Persia) when her people were led away around 600 BC.

Consider your own heritage: What life lessons have you learned from what your ancestors stood for, fought for, believed in, and endured?

Esther's parentage: Both of Esther's parents died while she was young, but a faithful and loving cousin took her in and brought her up as his own daughter.

Consider your parentage: If you, too, have "missing" parents, gratefully acknowledge those whom God has provided in their place to shape your life. How can you express your gratitude to them?

Esther's tutelage: All of us have been taught by many teachers and Esther is no exception. She learned not only from her cousin Mordecai, but also from Hegai, a heathen eunuch in King Ahaseurus' palace who taught her the ins and outs of pleasing the king.

Consider your tutelage: What are some ways the variety of teachers God has sent your way have instructed you and guided you to the present point of being useful to Him?

Esther's advantage: She was gifted with physical beauty, Mordecai's wisdom, Hegai's preferential treatments, and her royal position.

Consider your own personal advantage: Identify those conditions, circumstances and opportunities God has arranged to make you useful to Him.

Esther's homage: All said and done, Esther's heritage, parentage, tutelage and advantage added up to homage when she was presented to the king.

Consider the homage you will one day enjoy: Because you are a member of a royal priesthood (I Peter 2:9), a daughter of the King of the Universe!

"...And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"
(Esther 4:14)