



Myrtle Planted in the King's Garden

(God's Servant, Persia's New Star)

Esther 2

Real Beauty is that which God possesses, and it shines through both the beauty and ugliness of men as He goes about His work of replacing our thorny briars with His lovely myrtle.

The Real Pageant: God's Beauty on Display (Esther 2)

1. *The great beauty pageant is divised as a remedy for kingly regret.*
⇒ Even the Unholy Distractions of Men Serve the Holy Purposes of God. (BEAUTIFUL!)
2. *Mordecai adopts his orphaned cousin, Hadassah/Esther.*
⇒ Our Little Acts of Normal-Life Goodness Also May Provide the Building Blocks for God's Great Acts Of Extraordinary Blessing. (BEAUTIFUL!)
3. *Esther is forced to relocate & remain at the royal residence.*
⇒ The Will of Malevolent Man Can Only Be Exercised Under the Benevolent Will of God. (BEAUTIFUL!)
4. *The Competition: 400-1,000 carefully selected & abundantly resourced maidens... Only One will be queen: The rest become nameless, powerless harem girls.*
⇒ There Are No Odds with God. (BEAUTIFUL!)
5. *Esther heeds the advice of cousin Mordecai & of Hegai the eunuch.*
⇒ Gracious Humility (A Teachable Spirit), Ultimately Under God, Beautifies Its Wearer in a Way No Perfume or Jewelry can Enhance. (BEAUTIFUL!)
6. *Mordecai's good deed is recorded but completely unacknowledged.*
⇒ Our Works (Good or Evil) Are Best Seen Under the Timeless Sky of God's Patience Rather than In the Fading Fireworks of Our Efforts. (BEAUTIFUL!)