

Read Esther 2:17-23

**17** And the king loved Esther more than any of his other wives. He was so delighted with her that he set the royal crown on her head and declared her queen instead of Vashti.

**18** To celebrate the occasion, he gave a great banquet in Esther's honor for all his nobles and officials, declaring a public holiday for the provinces and giving generous gifts to everyone.

**19** Even after all the young women had been transferred to the second harem and Mordecai had become a palace official,

**20** Esther continued to keep her family background and nationality a secret. She was still following Mordecai's directions, just as she did when she lived in his home.

**21** One day as Mordecai was on duty at the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthana and Teresh—who were guards at the door of the king's private quarters—became angry at King Xerxes and plotted to assassinate him.

**22** But Mordecai heard about the plot and gave the information to Queen Esther. She then told the king about it and she gave Mordecai credit for the report.

**23** When an investigation was made and Mordecai's story was found to be true, the two men were speared on a sharpened pole.

**What did the King think about Esther (v. 17)?** He loved her more than any of his other wives. He loved her so much that he made her the new Queen.

**How did the king celebrate (v. 18)?** He had a great party/banquet for all his important people and declared that day was a holiday for everyone. And he gave lots of gifts to everyone.

**What happened to Mordecai (v. 19)?** He got an important job in the palace.

**What did Esther continue to do (v. 20)?** She kept it a secret that she was Jewish just as Mordecai told her to do.

**When Mordecai was on duty, what did he hear (v. 21)?** Two of the King's servants were mad at the King and were planning to kill him.

**What did Mordecai do (v. 22)?** He told Esther about it and Esther told the King. And she also told the King that Mordecai had been the one to tell her about the plan to kill the King.

**When the King found out that the two men had been planning to kill him, just like Mordecai said, what did he do (v. 23)?** He had the two men killed.

**What do you think the King thought about Mordecai after this?** He probably realized that Mordecai had saved his life. He was probably very thankful and would want to reward Mordecai. But did he?