

The Rising Star of the Restoration Period

by John Isaac Edwards

The book of Esther has its place among the Restoration literature in the history department of the Bible library. Esther, whose Persian name is connected with “star,” is The Rising Star of the Restoration Period. Take a look at some outstanding qualities of this Bible character.

She Found Favor. When Vashti’s royal estate was to be given unto another (Esther 1:19), many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women (Esther 2:8). Esther 2:9 records of Esther, “And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him...and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.” If you had been Esther, would you have found favor before the keeper of the women?

She Was Submissive. Esther was Mordecai’s “uncle’s daughter...whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter” (Esther 2:7). When Esther was shown preference by Hegai, she did not show it “...for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it” (Esther 2:10). Again it is written, “...for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him” (Esther 2:20). What a great example of

respect and obedience! Do we show this kind of honor today?

She Was Content. When Esther could have “...whatsoever she desired...” (Esther 2:13), “...she required nothing but what Hegai the king’s chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed...” (Esther 2:15). Some might have “asked for the moon,” but Esther was satisfied with the things appointed. How content are you?

She Was Sacrificial. When Haman, “the Jews’ enemy” (Esther 3:10), plotted “to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus” (Esther 3:6), Esther put her life on the line to save her fellow-Jews, the Lord’s people, with the attitude, “...if I perish, I perish” (Esther 4:16). Would you have done that?

She Was Influential. Chapters 6-10 find the tables turned on Haman and sorrow turned into joy as a result of Esther using her position for good.

What a great example of God’s providence at work, “..and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14).

Job, the Man

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The book of Job is a poetic masterpiece! Consider Job, the man.

Job Was a Righteous Man. The Lord said to Satan, “Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?” (Job 1:8). He is mentioned along with righteous Noah and Daniel in Ezekiel 14.

Job Was a Blessed Man. Job 1:2-3 speaks of the blessings of Job. “...this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.” Satan acknowledged that the blessings of Job were of God (Job 1:10).

Job Was a Real Family Man. He had a deep and abiding interest in the spiritual welfare of his children as seen in his offering “...burnt offerings according to the number of them all...” (Job 1:5).

Job Was a Suffering Man. Job is perhaps best remembered as a man who suffered. His suffering was the result of

Satan’s assaults against him. He lost his possessions, his children, his health, his wife’s support, and his friends. “...his grief was very great” (Job 2:13).

Job Was a Trusting Man. Job stated, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him” (Job 13:15). What a great attitude!

Job Was a Patient Man. James 5:11 records, “Behold we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.”

Job Was an Imperfect Man. God rebuked Job, and Job confessed his guilt before God (Job 38-42).

Job Was a Vindicated Man. Job 42 finds the Lord restoring Job’s prosperity. “So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning...” (Job 42:12).

Job, what a man!

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