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THE SEPARATION PROCESS

Hadassah was a beautiful young orphaned Jewish girl that was in captivity in Persia. She had been brought up by her Uncle Mordecai. She would become the Queen in a strange land. Before all of this took place there was another queen, Vashti, that had displeased the king. She was very beautiful but would not present herself before the king's guests from Persia and Media. She had disobeyed his command and because of this was divorced and exiled.

When Hadassah was brought into the king's palace, she had to make some changes. Her uncle told her she could no longer go by her Jewish name. Her name became Esther. Hadassah's Hebrew meaning was myrtle tree. The name Esther, which is a Persian name, means star.

In order for "Esther" to be prepared to be a bride an entire year was set aside for her preparation. She was separated to be prepared. During this time there was purifying of the flesh with oil of myrrh for six months and other sweet odors for an additional six months. Esther was not brought before the king until this preparation time was accomplished.

I truly believe that Vashti represents Israel who had been wed to God but because of her sin of rebellion was given a bill of divorcement and through this God grafted in the gentiles. The exile of Vashti had to happen so the true bride that represents the Jew and Gentile (Hadassah and Esther) would be prepared to meet the king. Esther's name possibly derived from the Babylonian goddess Ishtar. If so, then by taking on this name represents the non-Jews that were grafted into the true vine.

During the preparation time Esther made herself ready to meet her soon coming husband the king. She submitted herself to what it took to become purified to meet him. Likewise, we as Christians purify ourselves through the cleansing of our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ. It prepares us to meet him when he comes back to take us as his bride. We must remain separated unto him and no other.

I believe that Mordecai represents the Word of God that directs us spiritual orphans into adoption into the family of God. Mordecai gave Esther great counsel and because of this many Jewish lives were saved. Likewise, by hearing the Word of God individually, we too receive salvation and transformation. We also take on a new name: Christian.

As Esther took on the role of the bride, so we must do the same. We are separated for such a time as this, awaiting our Lord and bridegroom, Jesus Christ. In our preparation we receive the cleansing we individually need to be ready without spot or blemish. Then we reach out to others to help them prepare also. Esther reached out to the King and so doing saved her people. Separation brings preparation which is vital in being ready for the Lord Jesus Christ, our bridegroom at his soon coming return.