

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: Banquets in Esther

King's banquet for all officials in the kingdom (1:3-4)

King's banquet for all people in Susa (1:5-8)

Vashti's banquet for women (1:9)

King's banquet for Esther (2:17-18)

Esther's first banquet for king and Haman (5:4-6)

Esther's second banquet for king and Haman (7:1-9)

Jews' banquet in Susa (9:17-18)

Jews' banquet throughout the kingdom (8:15-17 and 9:19-23)

Question. Through these banquets, what can we find out?

3. Read Esther Ch. 2

4. Discussion

- a. Why do you think this book introduces Mordecai with some details in verse 5?
- b. How shall we understand the description on Esther in verse 7 and in this whole chapter?
- c. Why do you think Mordecai forbade Esther to reveal her identity as a Jew?
- d. When Esther was chosen as the new queen, the king held a great banquet. What do you think the main purpose of the banquet would be?
- e. What does verse 19 imply?
- f. Can you make a comparison between Mordecai and Esther?
- g. Can you also make a comparison between Esther and the former queen Vashti?

5. Closing Prayer