

Chapter One

Bookends

There are sixty-six flawless volumes, which are seated majestically on the bookshelf of God's Holy Writ. As we peruse these volumes, which are said to be eternally "settled" (Psalms 119:89), we stumble across an interesting phenomenon. Of the many books that grace that blessed shelf, we discover that only TWO bear the names of women! Looking more carefully at these two volumes, we learn; one woman was a GENTILE by the name of Ruth, and the other, a JEW, whose name was Esther. As The Holy Spirit begins feeding us tidbits of spiritual information, we learn; BOTH volumes (named after women) are part of Israel's historical literature contained in the Old Testament writings. Upon closer examination, we find that The Book of Ruth comes BEFORE The Book of Esther-which is listed LAST. If the Book of Ruth and the Book of Esther are set at the *dawn*¹ and the *sunset* of Israel's historical books; then we have found GOD'S *HISTORICAL* BOOKENDS!

If these things are not significant to the reader, they certainly are to this author. I had just finished writing my first book called, *At His Feet*. It was written all about the Book of Ruth. Thinking I was done, and could lay down my pen and paper for a while, imagine my surprise when I learned that Ruth had a bookend whose name was Esther?!

Some would impugn the use of these two *women* as the main characters for both my first, and now my second book. May I

¹ Even though *chronologically*, The Book of Ruth doesn't exactly *begin* the historical books (of the twelve, it is the *third* book that bears her name), we will not dismiss this unrefined treasure as something less than significant.

say; your argument is *not* with me, but with the very Author of ALL those books that span His Holy Bookshelf. Male or female, He used the characters He deemed necessary to get His point across; knowing, when we turned through the pages of His Book, we would find those pictures, and recognize what He was trying to show us. Afterward, He *purposefully* positioned those Books the way He wanted them to sit on *His Shelf!* Let me ask you, if He didn't place them *that* way, who did?!

Throughout the Book of Joshua, God's son Israel (Exodus 4:22) lived in triumphant victory. But by the time the Judges came along (in the book that also bears that name); Israel was in spiritual and moral declination. "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (Judges 17:6) Notice the trend here: As *TIME progressed*, Israel's LOVE for Jehovah *regressed!* Finally, in first Samuel chapter eight, when the Elders of Israel asked Samuel for a king "...like all the..." other "...nations..." we find the straw that broke the camel's back. This Nation had utterly abandoned Jehovah as their King. It is in this nook, sandwiched between The Judges and I Samuel that we first find a young Gentile maiden named Ruth. Though spiritual decay and decline lay in Israel at that time, Ruth, living down in Moab's land, becomes a child of faith. Later, she leaves her native home to follow her mother-in-law (back) to the Promised Land where she met and married *wonderful* Boaz. Subsequently, she gave Boaz a son named Obed, placing her in the Messiah's hall of fame (Matthew 1:5), and putting her at the *forefront* of Israel's history. The order of books leading to spiritual *darkness* in Israel, are JOSHUA-victory, JUDGES-defeat, and RUTH-BOOKEND.

Just as day follows night, and light follows darkness, Esther *follows* Ruth. At the end of their seventy-year captivity; a remnant of Jews had begun to seize their freedom by *leaving* Babylon, and *re-entering* the Promised Land. At this point, *spiritually speaking*, they were moving from defeat onto victory (again). Ezra 1:1 and 2 says, "...The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia...to build him an house at

Jerusalem....” This edict not only brought the first remnant of pioneers back to Jerusalem; it additionally brought them back to the Law of Moses and the word of God. That’s, what the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah are about. God’s people were moving *away from* captivity, and *onto SPIRITUAL* victory! It is during this time in Israel’s history that we find a young Jewish maiden who was living in Media-Persia named Hadassah (later, named Esther). Since the Children of Israel were coming *out of* captivity, her Book pictures light. The order of books leading to *light* in Israel are EZRA-decree and restoration, NEHEMIAH²-revival and worship-VICTORY!, and ESTHER-BOOKEND.

I want you to notice with me, that Ruth-the GENTILE goes *from* a heathen land *into* the Promised Land. But Esther-the JEW, who *belongs* in the Promised Land, *stays* in a heathen land *at the same time* others were going back. Truly, these two women make interesting bookends!

The Book of RUTH proves to us today, that, anyone genuinely submissive to God and His ways, even in the midst of spiritual decline, can be redeemed, renewed, and rewarded.

The Book of ESTHER, on the other hand, proves; anyone living in a heathen land can still live for God and have victory over “the world, the flesh and the Devil.”³

² Queen Esther, stepmother to Artaxerxes, was possibly the person responsible for arranging Nehemiah’s appointment as the King’s cupbearer. Don’t forget; it was Nehemiah who petitioned Artaxerxes to let him go to Jerusalem to rebuild the broken walls and restore Temple worship once again.

³ See, Ezekiel 14:14 and 20. NOAH had victory over *the world*, DANIEL had victory over *the flesh*, and JOB had victory over *the Devil*. They are all pictured, respectively, by the following: The “hundred and seven and twenty provinces” (Esther 1:1); “Vashti” (Esther 1:9); and “Haman.” (Esther 3:1-Genesis 3:1)

Here a Mohel, There a Mohel⁴

The Jew is God's elect, and will be, throughout all Eternity. Jehovah's wife-Israel was chosen by God (Jeremiah 3:14 and 20) over and above every other Gentile nation, just like Esther-the *Jew* was chosen over/above Vashti-the *Gentile*.

“For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath *CHOSEN* thee to be a special people unto himself, ABOVE all people that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor *CHOOSE* you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he hath sworn unto your fathers....” Deuteronomy 7:6-8a

“For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: and the Lord hath *CHOSEN* thee...” [The Jews] **“...to be a peculiar people unto himself, ABOVE all the nations...”** [The Gentiles] **“...that are upon the earth.”** Deuteronomy 14:2

Since the Jews are God's *Chosen* People, when it came time for the second member of the Godhead to be “...manifested to take away our sins...” (I John 3:5), He appropriately was born a JEW, to a JEWISH maiden. Remember, Jesus “...was made of the seed of David, according to the *flesh*...” (Romans 1:3) “...And when eight days were accomplished...” the seed “...to whom the promise was made...” (Galatians 3:19) received the *sign of circumcision*. (Luke 2:21) “For it is EVIDENT that our Lord sprang out of Juda...” (Hebrews 7:14a), and it is also EVIDENT, Abraham-THE GENTILE, was THE *FIRST* from the Lord to receive this *sign*.

⁴ In Judaism, a *Mohel* (usually a Rabbi that's trained in medical and surgical techniques) is the one who performs the operation of *circumcision* on an infant boy eight days after their birth. Please read this subtitle-*Here a Mohel, There a Mohel*-to the tune of “*Old McDonald Had a Farm*”!

“...For we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? NOT in circumcision, BUT IN *UNCIRCUMCISION*. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of faith which he had **YET BEING UNCIRCUMCISED: that he might be the father of all them that believe....”** Romans 4:9b-11a

Circumcision is NOT *natural*. No one is *born* circumcised! It was a sign given to that race of people, and more particularly to those who “...walk in the steps of THAT faith of our father Abraham, which he had being YET UNcircumcised.” (Romans 4:12b) This sign was *a promise from God* stating that Abraham would be the Father of many nations, and his seed would inherit the Promised Land. How was this established? “And he...” [God] “...gave him...” [Abraham] “...the covenant of circumcision...” (Acts 7:8. See Acts 7:1-8)

In the Old Testament, circumcision was a *physical* operation. It was the cutting away of the flesh with a *literal* knife.

In the New Testament, male *and* female are circumcised “...with the circumcision made WITHOUT hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ...” (Colossians 2:11) The Lord *Himself* is The skilled Surgeon that performs this *spiritual* “operation” (Colossians 2:12); by cutting the FLESH away from our soul, giving us *His* Spirit, and *restamping His* Image deep down inside (us). This *act* liberates our soul, making us READY for Heaven.

Notice, in the Church Age, a Believer can have ALL his sins forgiven, and physically, still be UNcircumcised.

“And you, being dead in your sins and the *UNCIRCUMCISION* of your FLESH, hath he quickened [made alive] together with him, having forgiven you ALL trespasses....” Colossians 2:13

I'm so thankful that, when Jesus saved me, He circumcised me *spiritually*, and forgave me of ALL *my* sins! This operation placed me into His *Holy* Body, and made ME (*can you believe it?!!!*) His *lovely* bride. It also guarantees me that I will live with Him eternally!!

Since *SPIRITUAL* circumcision is the operation that God now employs to save a soul, He no longer requires circumcision of the FLESH.

“For in Christ Jesus, NEITHER circumcision availeth anything, NOR uncircumcision, but a new creature.”

Galatians 6:15

During the time of the Apostles, there were men who said, “...Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye CANNOT be saved.” (Acts 15:1) Peter rose up and said, “But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus we shall be saved...” (Acts 15:11) Before that time, *physical* circumcision was necessary to *continue* the promises of God to an individual...

“And the UNcircumcised man child whose FLESH of his foreskin is NOT circumcised, that SOUL shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.” Genesis 17:14

...But when the promised seed came; *those things were done AWAY* in Christ (See, Galatians 4:4 and 5)...

“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.” Colossians 2:14

Today, we can say with the Apostle Paul, “...if ye be circumcised...” in the *flesh*, “...Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised...” in the *flesh* “...that he is a debtor to do the WHOLE law. Christ is become of NO effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye have fallen from grace...” and become “...ENTANGLED

again with the yoke of bondage...”! (Galatians 5:1-4) We will resume this subject, later in this chapter.

A Gentile God

Just because God is said to be the Father and Husband of the Jews, and His Son, born in time to His Chosen People, DOESN'T MEAN THAT GOD *HIMSELF* IS A JEW! In fact, in the Book of Esther, King Ahasuerus is presented much like God *Himself*-a great *GENTILE*⁵ King. “For the Lord most high...is a great King *over all the earth*...”-not just over *Israel* or *Canaan's land*-OVER ALL THE EARTH. (Psalms 47:2. Please read the whole chapter!) Let's take a few moments to examine this King. In just ten short chapters, the Bible refers to this great Gentile King over a hundred and twenty-five times! Additionally, Esther's Book has nothing bad to say about him. *Every* time he is presented, he's a potentate that's doing right! He, reveals his great wealth to his subjects (Esther 1:1-8); dethrones his *own* wife for her sin of stubbornness (Esther 1:9-22); picks his *second* wife, Esther, for her submission and inner beauty (Esther 2:15-17); remembers and rewards good (Esther 6:1-3; 8:15); denounces and destroys evil (Esther 7:10; 9:13-14); and promotes those he rewards. (Esther 10) *NO WONDER HE RESEMBLES THE KING OF GLORY!*

King Ahasuerus was not the *first* Gentile to picture God-The King. The time Joseph was in Egypt as the second ruler in Egypt's kingdom; Pharaoh pictured Him. In that story, Pharaoh, the *GENTILE* King, typified God The FATHER, and Joseph, the CIRCUMCISED *HEBREW* (Genesis 41:12), typified God the SON. Pharaoh said to Joseph, “...only in the throne will I be GREATER than thou...” (Genesis 41:40-John 14:28) This made Joseph a picture or type of The Lord Jesus Christ, the second ruler in God's Kingdom.

⁵ Until the Jew came along, this great King had no recognizable race. (See next footnote.)

Nebuchadnezzar is another great GENTILE King that pictured The King of Glory, whose “...kingdom is an everlasting kingdom....” (Daniel 4:3) Like Joseph, Daniel is exalted by Nebuchadnezzar as “...ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.” (Daniel 2:48) In chapter five, Belshazzar puts a GOLD (picture of *deity*) chain around Daniel’s neck, exalting him to “...the *third* ruler in the kingdom...” (vss. 7, 16 and 29), “...because an excellent SPIRIT was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.” (Daniel 6:3) Daniel, here, pictures the *third* ruler in God’s Kingdom-the *third* person of the Godhead. (Acts 17:29)

The reader will find it almost impossible to decipher God’s word; unless *every* illustration that the Holy Spirit has drawn is examined “...precept upon precept; line upon line....” (Isaiah 28:10) The *final* portrait helps us to conclude that God The Father is NOT a Jew, but a GENTILE. Remember, Adam-our *first* father (I Corinthians 15:22a) was NOT a Jew, and YET HE WAS CREATED “...IN THE *IMAGE OF GOD*⁶....” (Genesis 1:27) Noah, who was given the job of *replenishing* the earth (Genesis 9:1), was NOT a Jew either. And as we have already seen, “...Abraham our father...” (Romans 4:1 and James 2:21) was not BORN a *circumcised* Jew. (Romans 4:9-11)

In the Book of Ruth, Boaz (a type of Christ-the second member of the Trinity), a great wealthy JEWISH landowner, marries a GENTILE bride named Ruth. That is *not* the case in Esther’s Book. The great GENTILE King Ahasuerus (Esther 1:1 and 2), turns *from* a Gentile bride, and picks a Jewish one instead!

Though made up of Jew and Gentile in one body, Jesus’ bride is *primarily* Gentile. (Romans 11:1-36; Acts 13:46; 18:6; 28:25-29) The Father’s bride however is the Jew. The day she

⁶ Though God is outside and separate from His creation, He identified Himself with it, the moment He uttered Genesis 1:26. God was a great king, and now, so was Adam. And God was a trinity, and now, so was Adam-*a chip off the Old Block*. (*Old*-as in “The Ancient of days”. Daniel 7:9, 13, 22)

recognizes her forsaken Brother and Messiah (John 1:11), will be the day she marries The King a second (Acts 7:13) time...

“They say,...” [Moses, in Deuteronomy 24:1-4] **“...If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man’s, shall he return unto her again?...yet RETURN AGAIN TO ME, saith the Lord.”** Jeremiah 3:1

May I point out that, in Eternity, each wife will live in a *different* home. The bride of Jesus-the *Church*, will live with Him in NEW JERUSALEM (Galatians 4:26; Revelation 21:2, 9 and 10), but Jehovah’s wife-the *Jew*, will inherit the EARTH.

“And the Lord shall be KING over all the EARTH...”
Zechariah 14:9a

Notice *Jehovah’s preferred* placement of these two books, in Scripture. He places *the book that primarily deals with His Son*-The Book of Ruth, FIRST. Then, He gives *this* SECOND account-The Book of Esther. God does this, so “...that in all things he...” [Jesus] “...might have the PREEMINENCE.” (Colossians 1:18. See, Philippians 2:9-10)

Out with the Old, In with the New

Historically, Queen Vashti was a *stubborn* GENTILE, who *failed* her King. In type, she personifies the unsaved flesh. “So then they that are in the flesh CANNOT please God.” (Romans 8:8) The flesh fails The King EVERY TIME! It literally needs to be cut away to make room for the new man.

“...Seeing that ye have PUT OFF the *old man* with his deeds;...” [*Vashti*-in type] **“...And have PUT ON the *new man*...”** [*Esther*-in type. Obviously, the new man is referring to Christ *in* you. You’ll understand what I’m saying; as you read on in this, and subsequent chapters.] **“...which is renewed in**

the knowledge after the image of him that created him....”

Colossians 3:9 and 10

When The Lord told Abraham to circumcise the flesh of his foreskin (Genesis 17:11), he learned a very valuable lesson that day. He learned; the flesh is no good. Four chapters later, when The Lord tells him to “...cast out the bondwoman *and her son...*” (Genesis 21:10; Galatians 4:30), the lesson he learned earlier was put to task. *WHY*, you ask, was Ishmael cast out? Because “...*he* who was of the bondwoman was born *after* THE FLESH...”! (Galatians 4:23)

The *Gentile* flesh-Vashti, was *no good*, but a young Jewish maiden, who humbly stood in line at the request of her father’s brother’s son, was! Her name was Esther. (Esther 2:20b) Did you know, the flesh, when left to itself, will rebel every time! (In Esther 1:11-Vashti was left to herself-*away* from the King.) The *best* thing you can do with the flesh is to *REMOVE IT*. (In Esther 1:19, all agreed; it was necessary to *CUT IT AWAY*.) The Apostle Paul said that *his* old man [his flesh] was wretched!

“For I know that in me (that is, IN MY FLESH,) dwelleth NO GOOD THING...O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM, who shall deliver me from *the body of this death*?” Romans 7:18 and 24

Outwardly, no matter how beautiful Vashti was, “...for she was fair to look on...” (Esther 1:11), HER FLESH WAS *WRETCHED*! Did you know, unless your flesh is cut away and put to death, it has the potential of doing the worst sins and crimes imaginable?! That’s why in I Corinthians 15:31, Paul blurted out the words “...I die daily...”! Paul knew that his flesh was no good, and understood why his old man had to be crucified with Christ.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live *in the flesh* I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

Paul *lived in* the flesh, but did NOT *yield to* the flesh. In Galatians chapter five, Paul gives an itinerary of the works of the flesh...

“Now the works of *THE FLESH* are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, AND SUCH LIKE....” Galatians 5:19-21a

Now, the *truly* Born Again Christian has to make a determination at this point. Can you *honestly* say (“without a shadow of a doubt”-like we Baptists like to say), since the day you’ve been saved, that you have *no longer* duplicated *any* of the works of the flesh listed above? If you *have* duplicated them, then what’s going on? Are you lost? Or, are you not somehow crucified with Christ? Please allow me to explain the reality of what’s happening here. It’s very simple! When a man or woman gets saved (Acts 20:21), they go through an operation. The flesh gets cut away from the soul, the old man is crucified with Christ, and the New Man-The Image of Christ (The Holy Spirit) comes in to dwell. This operation *creates* a NEW CREATURE.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a *new creature*:...”
 [There is a creature there now, that wasn’t there before-someone, “...dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto GOD...” (Romans 6:11)]
“...old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” II Corinthians 5:17

Your *soul* may be “saved” (Hebrews 10:39), your *spirit* may be “quickenened” (Ephesians 2:1), but your *flesh* is another story! Someone saved by the Spirit of God still has the propensity of yielding to the flesh that afore time had been cut away by the “operation of God.” (Colossians 2:9) That operation is the cutting away of the flesh from your soul. “...In the day that...” Adam ate from off that awful tree, he died. (Genesis 2:17) He, and every man since (you can’t get out of it!), has had their

souls stuck to their fleshly bodies. Could that be *why* God commanded the Old Testament Jews not to touch *anything* that would defile them? Defilement, not only affected the body, it also affected the SOUL that was *stuck to it!*

“If a SOUL...” [don’t forget the soul was stuck to the body]
“...touch any unclean thing...he shall be unclean, and guilty.” Leviticus 5:2

Like the flesh, Vashti is no good. King Ahasuerus will not put up with a stubborn, self-willed, rebellious woman. And by the way, neither will ANY *thinking* husband! If you don’t believe that, read Esther 1:12-22. While Vashti is *rejected* in chapter one, Esther is gladly *accepted* by the King in chapter two. The *same* holds true for King Jehovah. While He *rejects* the fallen and depraved flesh, He GLADLY *accepts* “...the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him...” (Colossians 3:10)

Good King; Bad King

Ahasuerus of old falls into a line of kings and monarchs that ruled during the known history of this world. These kings and their kingdoms *either* picture the God of Glory, or the “...god of this world...” (II Corinthians 4:4) What sets them apart from each other is the *character* of their reign. Obviously, if a particular potentate or king *acted* like the Devil, no one in their right mind would say that he was a type of God-The Creator-King of the Universe. Conversely, no one in their right mind would call a godly ruler, “...leviathan...”-the “...king over all the children of pride...” (Job 41:34)

From the knowledge of Scripture that *you* possess, if someone asked *you* to pick what a certain king looked like or resembled, how would *you* choose? Now don’t act too sanctimonious here! Don’t act like you would *never* compare anyone to God or the Devil, *especially* if you’re an American. In *this* country, we

compare the ruler of the free world, to one or the other, twenty-four hours a day! We say, “so and so is a BIG LIAR, and ‘actin’ *like* THE DEVIL!” Then we can’t wait to get *our particular candidate* into office, because *that man* seems to act *like* God would act, if *HE WERE HERE!* We make judgments all day long. And according to Jesus, that’s okay, because He said to “...judge righteous judgment.” (John 7:24)

In the same way *we would judge* a king or ruler, *God judges* and has an opinion *too*. Scripture presents a ruler as being good OR evil. Usually, there are no *in-betweens*. God is pictured on His Throne, in Glory, ruling over the hearts and affairs of men. But the Devil and his cohorts are pictured as renegades that are always opposing His Great Kingdom and seeking to overthrow His purpose and plan.

The Pharaoh in GENESIS is a picture of God, The Father, (like we said earlier). BUT the Pharaoh in EXODUS, “...which knew NOT Joseph...” clearly pictures *the Devil*. (Exodus 1:8)

Ahasuerus’ majestic kingdom mirrors that of the Heavenly Father’s Holy and Royal Kingdom. (1 Peter 2:9) Ahasuerus destroys the exalted and wicked oppressor of his *Jewish* bride and people; just like God will destroy *His!* This will all be very evident, during the time of Jacob’s Trouble.

“...The dragon [the Devil-*The* Oppressor] persecuted the woman [the Jew- Revelation 12:1 and 2; Genesis 37:9 and 10] which brought forth the man child...And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ [the Jews in the Tribulation].” Revelation 12:13 and 17

“And the devil⁷ that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” Revelation 20:10

Before we move on to the next subject, notice with me, just like Ahasuerus unwittingly EXALTS the oppressor of his JEWISH bride and people...

“...After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman...and advanced him, and set his seat ABOVE all the princes that were with him.” Esther 3:1...

...The King of Glory EXALTS the oppressor of *His* JEWISH bride and people (too)...

“...Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I HAVE SET THEE SO...” Ezekiel 28:14a

Kingdom of Heaven; Kingdom of God

Understanding the phenomenon that God is a Gentile, might clear up some misunderstandings the reader may have between The Kingdom of *Heaven* and The Kingdom of *God*. These two kingdoms are not the same! The first is a literal, visible kingdom that will be *seen* on earth at Christ's Second Advent. God The Father is The KING of that Kingdom, and the JEWS will be His subjects.

“...Many shall come...and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of HEAVEN.” Matthew 8:11

And in Matthew 25:1 to 13, the “...ten virgins, which took their lamps,...went forth to MEET...”, not marry, “...the

⁷ This can only refer to the Dragon; since the other members of the satanic trinity, the Beast, and the False Prophet, ARE *already* in their eternal home, waiting for his arrival!

Bridegroom.” Do you know who marries the Bridegroom? That’s *easy* to answer. *His bride will!*

“He that HATH the *bride* IS THE *BRIDEGROOM*....” John 3:29

In the Kingdom of HEAVEN, Jesus is the Bridegroom, and the SECOND RULER of that Kingdom. His Father sends out servants, seeking to fill this wedding with GUESTS. These guests are called “virgins.” THESE VIRGINS come to *meet* The Bridegroom, but they don’t *marry* Him, because THEY ARE NOT HIS BRIDE. If you don’t believe me, look at this: **“The kingdom of HEAVEN is like unto a certain king [God The Father], which made a marriage for his son [God The Son], And sent forth his servants [Old Testament Prophets] to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they [the Jews] would not come....”** Matthew 22:2 and 3; Matthew 21:45

In the verses that follow this parable, The King finally finds GUESTS to attend the wedding of His Son. Those guests, we later learn were JEWS who accepted The Father’s invitation!

The Kingdom of GOD is a *spiritual* kingdom that a man enters into by birth-*spiritual* birth. This Kingdom “...cometh NOT with observation [and therefore, can’t be seen with the *human eye*]...”; because “the kingdom of God is WITHIN you.” (Luke 17:20 and 21) The Apostle Paul put it like this:

“For the kingdom of GOD is NOT meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

Romans 14:17

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.” (Galatians 4:4 and 5) From that hour until now, all men need to be born again to enter “...into the kingdom of his dear son....” (Colossians 1:14) What *kingdom* is that? The Kingdom of GOD! Today, King Jesus is ruling and reigning from *that* Kingdom.

He is The Bridegroom, and we *individuals*, who are spiritually born into that kingdom, *collectively*, make up His bride.

The Kingdom of God is made up of “sons of God” (John 1:12; Romans 8:19; I John 3:1, 2) who are married to The Father’s Son. These sons of God are said to be “...the *bride*, the Lamb’s *wife*.” (Revelation 21:9) She will live with The Lamb in Eternity, in New Jerusalem. If these sons of God are *specifically* referred to as the *Lamb’s wife*, would they *ALSO* be the *Father’s wife*? Presupposing that New Jerusalem will be our home for Eternity, *who then* will live on *the earth*, in the Kingdom of Heaven? To arrive at these *simple* answers, we have determined that these two kingdoms are NOT the same! The wives don’t have *the same* Husband; and the Husbands don’t have *the same* wife.

The Kingdom of Heaven is an earthly Kingdom; ruled by The Father who is married to *physical* Jews. Just as Joseph was the *second* ruler in Pharaoh’s kingdom, Jesus will sit on the throne in Jerusalem, second only to His Father.

“Thou shalt be over MY HOUSE, and according unto THY WORD shall all MY PEOPLE be ruled: only in THE THRONE will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph’s hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a GOLD chain about his neck; And he made him to ride in the SECOND chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee [Philippians 2:9-11]: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh [type of God The *Father*] said unto Joseph [type of God The *Son*], I am Pharaoh, and without THEE shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.” Genesis 41: 40-44

“God...hath...spoken unto us by his Son, whom he [God] hath appointed heir of ALL THINGS....” Hebrews 1:1 and 2

“For he [God, The Father] hath put ALL THINGS under his [God, The Son’s] feet... And when ALL THINGS shall be

subdued unto him, then shall the Son also HIMSELF be subject unto him [God, The Father] **that put all things under him** [God, The Son], **that God may be all in all.**”

I Corinthians 15:27 and 28

The Kingdom of God is a *spiritual* kingdom; made up of *Spiritual Jews* which are “...members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.” (Ephesians 5:30) These Spiritual Jews (Romans 2:28 and 29) replace the fallen Sons of God (Job 38:7; John 1:12; I John 3:1 and 2), and are said to be “...as the angels of God in heaven.” (Matthew 22:30) If these things are confusing and difficult for the reader, please don’t be discouraged! Don’t forget that we are dealing in the realm of the *spirit* and the *supernatural*. Let’s look at the *Trinity*...

“For there are THREE that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: AND THESE THREE ARE ONE.” I John 5:7

Isn’t that amazing? *Three* are really *one*! If a *man’s* “...spirit and soul and *body*...” (I Thessalonians 5:23) divide up, he *dies*! [The Apostle Paul said, “...to be absent from the *body*...”, is “...to be present with the Lord...” (II Corinthians 5:8)] But God can divide Himself up into THREE equal *parts* and still *remain alive*! That was proven at the baptism of Jesus...

“And Jesus, when he was baptized [on earth], went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [The Holy Spirit descended *from Heaven to earth*], and lighting upon him: And lo a voice FROM [God The Father in...] HEAVEN, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16 and 17

One day The Lord (again) will be ONE...

“And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in *that day* [still future] shall there be ONE Lord, and His name ONE.”
Zechariah 14:9

In the Millennial Kingdom, God-*the Spirit*, God-*the Soul*, and God-*the Body* will once again be ONE. At that time, *internally*, God will be a GENTILE. *Externally*, God will be a *circumcised JEW*, who was circumcised eight days after his birth and thirty-three years later, “...wounded in the house of (his) friends.” (Zechariah 13:6) The nail pierced hands and feet and riven side are not the *only* changes that will appear on our God in Eternity. His body was changed in *another way*. Circumcision! The *first* Adam was NOT circumcised, but “...the *last* Adam...” was! (I Corinthians 15:45) [This author is not seeking to offend anyone reading this account. His goal is to simply edify and help his readers find TRUTH.]

The Son is PICTURED in the Kingdom of God as a JEW who marries a GENTILE Bride: BOAZ and RUTH-BOOKEND number ONE. The Father is PICTURED in the Kingdom of Heaven as a GENTILE who marries a JEWISH bride: AHASUERUS and ESTHER-BOOKEND number TWO.

The First Man in the Mirror

When we think of Adam, we normally think of him in his *fallen* condition. Our evangelical minds conjure up verses like I Corinthians 15:22a, which says, “...As in Adam all *die*...”, and Romans 5:12 and 14, which say, “...as by one man *sin* entered into the world, and *death* by *sin*; and so *death* passed upon all men...*death* reigned from Adam...” Two other verses we freely quote from in Genesis three say, “...the Lord God *sent him forth* from the garden of Eden...”, and, “...he *drove out* the man...” (Vs. 22 and 23) Quoting verses that deal with *the fall of Man* has made us guilty of *forgetting* his original condition. Originally, ADAM was CREATED in *God’s own IMAGE!*

“And God said, let us make man⁸ in our IMAGE, after our LIKENESS...So God created man in his own IMAGE, in the IMAGE of God created he him....” Genesis 1:26 and 27

Like God at creation, man *possessed* a spirit—“God is a Spirit...” (John 4:24), but he was not *exclusively* a spirit. More than just *that*, he was a *soul-AND* a *body* too. (I Thessalonians 5:23) On the sixth day, “...the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul....” (Genesis 2:7) Just before He created man, God took a good look at himself in the mirror. From *that* look, He then created *a perfect* body that mirrored God-*The Son’s* body. [Remember, before His preincarnate appearances in the Old Testament, and the Incarnation (itself); The Son of God was *one* with The Father.] He breathed breath into that perfect body He formed from the dust, by giving it His Spirit. This mirrored God-*The Holy Spirit*. And finally, the *combination* of the breath of God and the dust from the ground created *a perfect* soul, mirroring God-*The Father*. The first created man *looked like* God, his Creator! Even *God* thought His creation was “...very good...”, and said so Himself. (Genesis 1:31)

Remember, “...the first man Adam (“...*THE son of God*....” Luke 3:38) was made a *living soul*....” (I Corinthians 15:45) He was a *DIRECT* creation who mirrored his Creator in *every* way.

God created Adam’s body from the earth. “The first man is *of the earth*, earthy....” (I Corinthians 15:47) Verse forty-nine of the same chapter says, “...as *we* have borne the image of the *earthy*....” *We* bear the *FALLEN* image of Adam, but it was

⁸ And of the Angels, Seraphim (Isaiah 6:2 and 6), and Cherubim (Genesis 3:24)—weren’t they also created in the *image* and *likeness* of God? Good question! In Scripture, only Adam is said to have that distinction [Genesis 1:26-27, 9:6. I Corinthians 11:7]. For instance, the Cherubim “...had the likeness [not of God, but] of man....” (Ezekiel 1:5) “They had the face of a man, and the face of a lion...an ox...[and] an eagle.” (Ezekiel 1:10) Gabriel (Daniel 8:16 and 9:21) is said to be an “...angel...” (Luke 1:19 and 26), and Michael (Daniel 12:1), an “...archangel....” (Jude 9)

Adam who *first* bore the image of his UNBLEMISHED Creator. Adam was created as a “*natural*” (I Corinthians 15:46) GENTILE man-who was UNcircumcised. I repeat; Adam mirrored his Creator in *every* way. *That* is why I say, the day He created the first man, God’s Glorious Body *must have* been Gentile!

If we follow the story line as presented in The Book of Esther, the only conclusion we can come to, is that; God is a GENTILE, and His Wife for Eternity will be a JEW. This brings me to my next point...

Make Us a King...

“Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together... and said...now *make us a king* to judge us like all the nations.” (I Samuel 8:5 and 6) Then The Lord said, “...they [the Jews] have rejected *me*, that *I* should not reign over them...” (I Samuel 8:7) God never intended Israel to have any King, other than Himself, to rule over them. He wanted the exclusive privilege of reigning over *His* chosen few. Hardness of hearts made these Jews reject Him as their King; at the same time they were asking for a mortal man to replace Him.

When God said through Moses, “When thou art come unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee,...and shalt say, *I will set a king over me, like as all the nations about me...*” (Deuteronomy 17:14-The Lord said that; about 350 years before it happened!); it seems like the Lord knew what the Children of Israel were thinking all along. He not only knew what they would do, but He meted out their punishment as well. “The Lord shall bring thee, and THY king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which NEITHER thou nor thy fathers have known [*exactly where our story takes place-EXILED in PERSIA*]; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone. And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations....” (Deuteronomy 28:36 and 37)⁹

⁹ The context of this chapter is found in verse 15.

Another reason I believe God is a Gentile, is because HE NEVER SET UP A *JEWISH KING* TO RULE OVER THE *WHOLE EARTH*, ONLY *GENTILE* KINGS! The ONLY land that God ever *let* a *JEWISH* king reign over, was a land about as big as NEW JERSEY! That kingdom split in two, and the Northern Kingdom went into total apostasy. Of all the kings that reigned over that second (Southern) Kingdom, Scripture records only about four good, *godly* ones. The rest, and the *majority* of those kings, were evil.

When The Lord gives us a picture of Himself-as a Great King, He *doesn't* turn to the JEWS to do it, *He turns to the GENTILES!*

“...O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE HEATHEN? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that NONE is able to withstand thee?” II Chronicles 20:6

“...He removeth kings, and setteth up kings....” Daniel 2:21

“...To the intent that the living may know that *the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men*, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.” Daniel 4:17
(See, Daniel 4:25, 32 and 5:21)

“...For I am a GREAT KING, saith the Lord of hosts, and my name is dreadful among THE HEATHEN.” Malachi 1:14

Even though God *is* called Israel's *King*, or Israel's *Husband*, doesn't disprove anything I've been saying. Ahasuerus was Esther's *King* AND *Husband*, and HE WAS A *GENTILE!* Nowhere does the Scripture *say* that God is a *JEW* (or a *Gentile* for that matter). We *assume* that God Himself is a *Jew* from His close connection to them. During the Post-Captivity Era, King Ahasuerus was also closely connected to the Jews. Like God, he marries one. Esther! He sets one as the second ruler in his Kingdom. Mordecai! He destroys their enemy. Haman! And,

since the Jews weren't destroyed on "...the thirteenth day of the twelfth month..." of "...the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus..." (Esther 3:7 and 13), He establishes a holiday for them. Purim!

Natural Jew, or Spiritual Jew¹⁰?

or...

Will *the Real Jew* Please Stand Up!

Christ was born a Jew, of the tribe of Judah. We that have put on Christ are *also* Jews.

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is NEITHER Jew nor Greek...for ye are all one in Christ.” Galatians 3:26 to 28

We, in The BODY of Christ, are *Spiritual* Jews.

“For he is NOT a Jew, which is one OUTWARDLY; NEITHER is that circumcision, which is OUTWARD IN THE FLESH: But he is a Jew, which is one INWARDLY; and circumcision is that of the heart, IN THE SPIRIT, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”
Romans 2:28 and 29

A natural Jew or “Jew by nature” is anyone born from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (*Among other things*, this author is also a natural born Jew!) Please read Galatians 2:13 to 15 and I Corinthians 10:32. In the Millennium, when the Old

¹⁰ *Since our study is focused primarily on those of us who are in Christ's Body, when the topic is germane to a Born Again Christian, I will affix the role of Esther to the wagon of the Spiritual Jew. Therefore, whenever possible, where it's appropriate, the Spiritual Jew will appropriate the role (and character) of Esther. Please read the footnote on page 206; note 73.*

Testament (saved) Jews inherit the literal promises God gave to Israel; they will sit down in the Kingdom of Heaven with the Old Testament Patriarchs.

A *Spiritual Jew*, is anyone who has been born again (John 3), spiritually circumcised (Colossians 2), and placed into Christ's *glorious* body. (1 Corinthians 12) *These* Jews; are *literally* bone of His bones, and flesh of His flesh. (Ephesians 5:30b) "For we are members of *his BODY...*" (Ephesians 5:30a) Since those of us who are redeemed by Christ's blood ARE literal members of HIS BODY, then we ARE *JEWS, just like Esther and Mordecai were.* (Esther 2:5 and 7) Don't forget; a *saved* Jew or Gentile is born *of the seed of Abraham.* Listen to what Paul tells us in Galatians 3:13, 14, 16, and 29...

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might COME ON THE GENTILES through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith...Now to Abraham and HIS SEED were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of ONE, And to THY SEED, which is CHRIST. And IF YE BE CHRIST'S, then are ye Abraham's seed, and HEIRS according to the promise."

Abraham is a FATHER to *all* that BELIEVE!

"...That he might be the father of all them that believe, THOUGH THEY BE NOT CIRCUMCISED [The Gentiles]; that righteousness might be imputed unto *them* ALSO."
Romans 4:11b

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum:"
(Hebrews 8:1) Anyone who is saved and placed into the Body of Christ, is a Spiritual JEW, who in type, is a picture of Esther-a Jewess who *closely* obeyed her adoptive (Ephesians 1:5; with Esther 2:7!) relative Mordecai-who *personified* and *prefigured* The Lord Jesus Christ. That's why we can say, Esther, the

literal JEW, will be able to help, guide, and instruct every *spiritual* JEW in the way they should live and act in Christ's *holy* body. "For if the *firstfruit* [-*Christ* (I Corinthians 15:20)] be *holy*, the *lump* [-THAT'S US!-*Christ's Body*] is ALSO *holy...*"! (Romans 11:16)

From Here to Eternity

The belief that God is a Gentile was not decided upon *lightly*; especially since this author is a *natural born* Jew himself. If Adam were born a Hebrew or Jew when God created him, I would have NO problem stating that The Creator was Jewish. But that is NOT the case. The truth is; after Adam was created, he sinned against his Creator. This merciful God made a covenant with Adam, which pointed to a seed that would be born some four thousand years later.¹¹ To fulfil that covenant, God chose different men, over the course of many years, to accomplish His goal.

God chose Abel, and NOT Cain. (I John 3:12) Abel died *before* the seed could pass on, so God chose Adam's *third* son, Seth. (Genesis 4:25, and 26) Then, down the road, it was Noah who "...found grace in the eyes of the Lord..." (Genesis 6:8) The Lord wiped man off the face of the earth, leaving only eight people to start over again. I want you to notice with me, that God didn't do it with a *Jew*, He did it with a *Gentile!*-A GENTILE, by the way, who "...walked with God...", being "...a just man and perfect in his generations..." (Genesis 6:9) After Noah, there were only three men who remained on this earth. Of those three, only ONE would pass on the promised seed. Genesis 9:26 says, "...Blessed be the Lord God of SHEM...." This is where the *Shemetic* people come from.

"Unto SHEM also, the father of all the children of *Eber*...."
Genesis 10:21

¹¹ That covenant wouldn't *fully* come to pass for yet another three thousand years after that.

“Eber” is where we derive the name *Hebrew*. (See Genesis 11:10 to 17) Luke 3:35b says, “...which was the son of *Heber*, which was the son of *Sala*...”

“And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram...”, the GENTILE from Ur of the Chaldees (Genesis 11:28 and 29), **“...THE HEBREW...”** Genesis 14:13 (This is the *first mention* of the word Hebrew.)

MANY YEARS *before* he is circumcised; Abram, the Gentile, is called a Hebrew! The promised seed would be disseminated through him. Anyone born to Abram (later called Abraham) and his seed would be blessed with him. There was only one *problem*. TWO seeds were born to Abraham.

“For it is written, that Abraham had TWO sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was born of the bondwoman was born after the FLESH; but the freewoman was by PROMISE.” Galatians 4:22 and 23

“Neither because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children; but, IN ISAAC shall thy seed be called.” Romans 9:7

We first learn about circumcision through God’s promise to Abraham, *the* Father of FAITH...

“This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token betwixt me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations...and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.” Genesis 17:10-13

From Abraham’s two sons, Isaac is picked. He will inherit the promises that were given to *his* father, from *The Everlasting*

Father! Wouldn't you know it, Isaac *also* has two sons. One is accepted, and the other, rejected.

“As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.”

Romans 9:13

Some time after God chose Jacob to inherit the promises; He *changes* his name to Israel. (Genesis 32:28) *Do you see how THE GENTILE creation keeps on getting more JEWISH?* Do you also see how The Lord is working “...all things after the counsel of *his own will...*” (Ephesians 1:11); to accomplish His GOAL?! Remember, God's purpose in all this is to bring in the Messiah. Thousands of years lay between the day Adam fell and the time (Galatians 4:4 and 5) mankind could again resume unfettered communion back with his Creator-KING. That's *GOOD NEWS*; here's even more: The Image that Adam lost can be regained, in Christ.

“And have put on the new man [Christ], which is *renewed* in knowledge after *the IMAGE* of him [GOD'S IMAGE-like Adam, on the sixth day of creation!] that created him.”

Colossians 3:10

“For as in Adam all die, even so *IN CHRIST* shall all be made *ALIVE*.” I Corinthians 15:22

Israel had twelve sons born to him, but only ONE (of the twelve) is chosen to continue the seed. “For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of JUDA¹² ...” (Hebrews 7:14)

These twelve sons wind up in Egypt. Four hundred years later, they are brought back out, by the hand of Moses. In Exodus chapters nineteen and twenty, the Law of God was given to ISRAEL (no longer the name of *one individual*-now the name of *a nation!*).

¹² This is where the word *Jew* comes from! (Look up II Kings 16:6-“JEWS”-First mention.) The first mention of the word JEW (without the “s”) is found in ESTHER 2:5. That term is used for the *first time* for Mordecai, a type of “...JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.” (Matthew 27:37)

The Law did nothing to CHANGE the promises of God:

“...The law, which was four hundred and thirty years AFTER, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is NO MORE of promise; but God gave it to Abraham BY PROMISE. Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, TILL THE SEED¹³ SHOULD COME TO WHOM THE PROMISE WAS MADE....” Galatians 3:17 to 19

This promise was so sure; not even The Law given to Moses could REPLACE it!

God created man as a GENTILE. When the Gentile seemed “no good” anymore, God (like Ahasuerus) gets rid of it! Don’t forget that *everyone’s flesh* (up until, and including Abram’s flesh) was GENTILE flesh. I repeat, ...FROM Adam TO Abram, everyone had GENTILE flesh. Whether anyone knew it or not, FROM Abraham TO Jesus, those that followed “...in the steps...of our father Abraham...” (Romans 4:12), by practicing circumcision, were affirming that *the flesh was NO GOOD!*

“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing...So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”
Romans 7:18a, and 8:8

In conclusion, beginning with *circumcised* Abraham, *certain* men, from generation to generation, were chosen by God to pass on His promised seed. That seed would ultimately bring in a JEWISH Saviour, who would save God’s Kingdom.

¹³ Mary’s genealogy traces her Son’s incarnate nature back to David the King (Luke 3:31), and more importantly back to *the first Adam*—“...which was *the son of God*...” (Verse 38) And in Matthew’s Gospel, we are shown that the promised seed is passed down from Abraham (Matthew 1:2) to “...Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was *born* Jesus, who is called *Christ*.” (Matthew 1:16)

We see a similar story in the Book of Esther. Once the Gentile¹⁴ flesh (Vashti) has been gotten rid of, the King spends a considerable amount of time, money, and effort to find someone to replace her. It just happened to be a *JEW* whose relative would save the kingdom.

Someone May Still Object...

Someone may still object to God being called a *Gentile*; citing phrases like Romans 3:29, which says, "...the *God of the Jews...*", or citing verses like Exodus 3:18, which says, "...and ye shall say unto him, The Lord *God of the Hebrews* hath met with us..." Here again, The Lord is only identifying Himself with His people. This verse does not say, "The '*Hebrew*' God hath met with us;" any more than the "wise men", when seeking to worship the *child* Jesus, asked those in Jerusalem, "Where is the '*Jewish*' God?" They asked, "...Where is *he* that is *born King of the Jews*?" (Matthew 2:2) As I noted earlier, the term *Jew*¹⁵ came from the word *Judah*, and was usually used as a *religious* distinction.¹⁶ The Apostle Paul uses this term freely...

¹⁴ Here's the *real* picture of the GENTILE: ADAM and his world *died* (Genesis 2:17b); NOAH'S world got *drowned* out (I Peter 3:20); and ABRAM was told by God to *leave* his world (Genesis 12:1)-later performing a *delicate* operation on himself and all his offspring! That incision *later* told Abraham, God *refused*, *repudiated*, and *rejected* his *former life* as a GENTILE. Abraham's; *home* changes, his *name* changes, and his *flesh* changes. He is a new person and has a *token* (Genesis 17:11) to prove it.

¹⁵ The word *Jew* or *Jews* is used over fifty times in The Book of Esther. ("Israelite", is a political or geographical distinction, meaning, from *that nation and people*. See, Romans 11:1)

¹⁶ Some exceptions: II Kings 16:6; 18:26; 25:25, II Chronicles 32:18, and Jeremiah 34:9; 38:19; 40:11.

“For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the JEWS’ RELIGION... And profited in the JEWS’ RELIGION....” Galatians 1:13 and 14

The *rejection* of the *Gentile*, and *acceptance* of the *Jew*, should not be a big deal to anyone who knows and loves the Scripture, especially in light of Romans chapter eleven-which teaches the temporary *rejection* of the *Jew* and door of *acceptance* for the *Gentile*. The only reason that I’ve taken so much time and space in my opening chapter to chew on the idea that God is a *Gentile*; is to honor the *text* before me. When we read the Book of Esther, even though we might not understand it all, we’re confident, what we’re viewing is exactly what her Author wanted us to see! Ahasuerus is presented as a *Gentile* KING, whose *first* wife (also a GENTILE) *was rejected because of sin*. This is where *Esther* comes in. THE FIRST WIFE (Vashti), represented by “the *old* man”, IS CUT AWAY, TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE SECOND WIFE (Esther *the Jew*), represented by “the *new* man” [referring, *in type*, to Christ-the new man inside her]. Esther mirrors JEHOVAH’S (ELECT) WIFE WHO MARRIES A (GENTILE) KING!

Join me, as we embark on a journey that brings us back to the land of Media-Persia, around the year 521 B.C. There, we’ll find a Gentile King named Ahasuerus (Xerxes), who recently prepared a feast to show off “...the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days....” (Esther 1:4) Though this story took place so very long ago, with the help of the printed page and *this* account in hand, we will at once find ourselves “couched” (Genesis 49:9) alongside this majestic King, giving us a “lion’s” eye view of what went on (or *more correctly*, what *DIDN’T* go on) that fateful day “...the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace....” (Esther 1:2)

