

## ESTHER

The inspiration for this letter is from a recent radio program in which I learned about a Christian ministry, writer, and several books pertaining to the development and nurturing of young women or teenagers. In particular, the writer and founder of this ministry referred to these young women as the “E” generation or those who model their lives after the virtues of Esther.

**E-Generation**

The basis for the ministry and the foundational books was a heart for the adverse effects of the changing culture in America; in particular, the adverse effect shaping the development of young women at a much earlier age than in times past. Today, the influences of popular culture are attracting the pre-teens in a much more significant way; consequently, the girl’s values and lifestyle are being formed much earlier leading to further problems in the teen’s years and beyond.

As I write this letter, addressed specifically to my daughter, my heart is extended to those parents and young people experiencing these conditions and struggling through the process of leading their children {and daughters} toward *the way they should go*. My hope for my own daughter, and for other children, rests in the power of prayer and God’s provision in my absence during this critical time.

From the Book of Esther, the story occurs in the Persian Empire during the reign of King Xerxes. Esther, the adopted daughter of Mordecai, is living in the citadel of Susa; the residence of the throne of King Xerxes and his present queen, Vashti. Due to circumstances that I will purposely not describe, the queen loses her favor with the king and is deposed from her royal position. To replace Vashti, the king issues a decree or, in the modern description, a directive or classified, for applicants or prospects to become the new queen.

Esther is not a likely candidate simply because she was not a natural born citizen or native; rather, she is born of Israel and Jewish birth. Not revealing her nationality, she and other prospects are ushered to the citadel to audition for the leading role of queen. Esther is described as a woman *lovely in form and feature* – which apparently was noticed by the King who was *attracted to Esther more than any other woman*.

Esther was placed in this powerful role by providence; she was serving God by ensuring that *her people* (the Jewish captives) were not destroyed by evil leaders among the King’s court. The King listened to Queen Esther’s appeal to *spare her self and her people from death*; indeed, he listened and granted her appeal.

If being beautiful includes the soul, Esther was the epitome of beauty in that she made great sacrifices to save her people, to obey God.

In a

WORD