

ESTHER

-A Story of Compromise and Redemption.

Pastor Tim- August 15th, 2021



Image by Jim Lepage

I. Historical Context of Esther- Darker Than You May Have Realized.

A. Esther takes place after the Babylonian exile.

B. Persia has replaced Babylon as the ruling power, and has a culture that encourages assimilation.



II. Esther chapters 1 & 2- Xerxes is refused and chooses a new Queen, Esther.

A. Xerxes is throwing a big feast for 2 reasons-

1. He's displaying his wealth to the elites of Persia.

2. He's wetting their appetites with greed to then tax them for war.

B. Xerxes goes to war against the Greeks and loses.



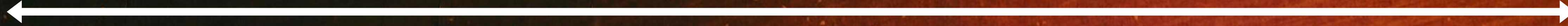
II. Esther chapters 1 & 2- Xerxes is refused and chooses a new Queen, Esther.

C. After being humiliated by the Greeks and Vashti, Xerxes holds a “contest” for a new Queen.

D. Power, money, sex, and pleasure were the things Persia valued the most, much like our world today.



II. Esther chapters 1 & 2- Xerxes is refused and chooses a new Queen, Esther.



E. Christians must resist the sinful practices of where we live while working for the good of those that live there.

1. Jeremiah 29



“(4) Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: (5) Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. (6) Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.”

-Jeremiah 29:4-6



“(7)But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. (8) For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, (9) for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.”

-Jeremiah 29:7-9



II. Esther chapters 1 & 2- Xerxes is refused and chooses a new Queen, Esther.

E. Christians must resist the sinful practices of where we live while working for the good of those that live there.

1. Jeremiah 29

2. A rebuke of 2 different temptations we still face today- withdrawal and assimilation.

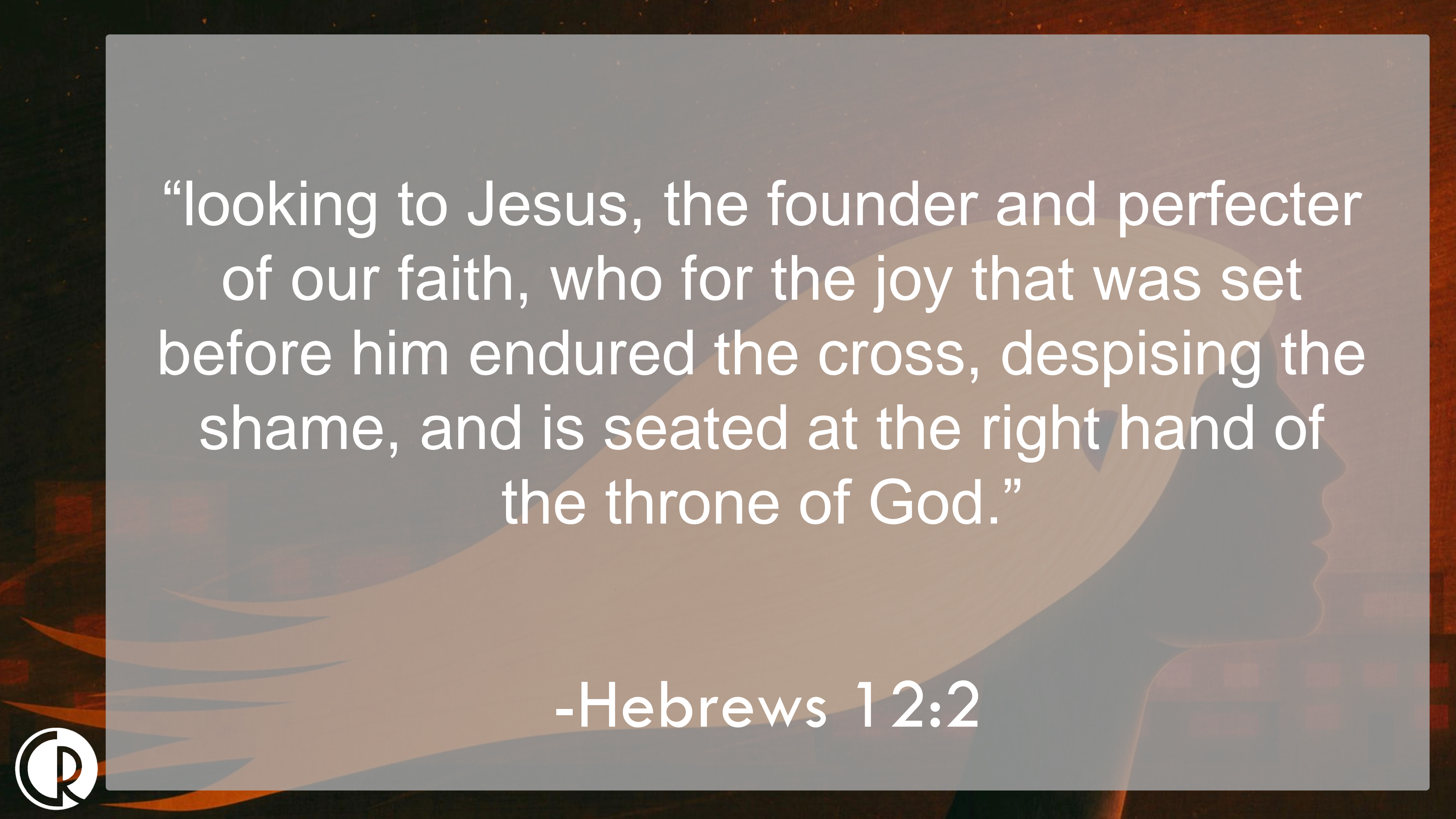


III. 3 Big Picture Takeaways from the Story of Esther.

A. Nobody is just one thing.

B. You cannot get beyond the reach of God's grace.





“looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

-Hebrews 12:2



III. 3 Big Picture Takeaways from the Story of Esther.

A. Nobody is just one thing.

B. You cannot get beyond the reach of God's grace.

C. There's no part of your story that God can't redeem.



“(2)Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, (3) for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

-James 1:2-3



