

## The Heavenly Movie Esther, The King Extends His Golden Scepter

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To [Home Page](#) file: <http://www.scripturescholar.com/EstherScepter.htm> .pdf

This article is a supplement to [www.scripturescholar.com/VenusStarofBethlehem.htm](http://www.scripturescholar.com/VenusStarofBethlehem.htm)

### An awe-inspiring series of Biblical signs in the sky

The book of Esther<sup>1</sup> tells a story echoed by a series of signs in the heavens witnessed by the magi. This series of signs immediately followed and confirmed the Star of Bethlehem signs of August 24, 2 B.C.,<sup>2</sup> where Christ received His golden scepter of world rule that brought the magi to Jerusalem. The signs described here occurred over the next five days.<sup>3</sup> These signs, along with the Bible's description, can help answer questions like: Did the magi interpret the line of planets as a scepter? Could the magi see the signs in the morning sky? Does the Bible have anything more to say about that sign? It also shows how the signs were viewed as the conception of the king's first son.

Some doubt Venus and some or all the other planets could be seen until a day after August 24, 2 B.C. They assert that the sun's glare or atmospheric extinction would prevent them from seeing them. To these skeptics, God gave a series of confirming signs. Esther gives additional Bible passages<sup>4</sup> to those already studied, where the word star (here Esther) and scepter appear together. There is an excellent chance at least some of the magi were from Susa, the Medio-Persian capital in the time of Esther.

At the end of this article, there is a series of dated dawn sky pictures for this series of signs.

### The Story of Esther

Here briefly are the key points of Esther's story. Afterward, I will detail the corresponding signs in the pre-dawn sky. Esther, the name of the heroine, is a Persian name for the star Venus,<sup>5</sup> the bright morning and evening star. Esther was an orphaned Jewish girl adopted by her cousin Mordecai, a palace doorkeeper in Susa, the capital.

King Ahasuerus the great<sup>6</sup> of the Persian Empire, threw a lavish 180-day party in his garden, followed immediately by a seven-day party. Meanwhile, Queen Vashti held a party for the women in the king's palace. On the seventh day, the king summoned Queen Vashti wearing her crown and show her beauty to his guests. The queen refused to appear, so the king, in anger, divorced her and banned her from his presence. The king removed Vashti from her royal position, and later Esther would take over that position.

Ahasuerus held an empire-wide beauty pageant to choose a new queen. Esther was among the virgins chosen as a potential queen. Esther spent a year going through cleansing and beauty treatments to prepare her for the king. Then, Esther went in with the king in the evening from one harem (virgin) and, in the morning, returned to another (concubine) harem. Then, the king

<sup>1</sup> There are two versions of Esther, the shorter one accepted by the Protestants and the longer one accepted as canonical by Catholics and Orthodox. The longer version gives more details and was in the LXX the apostles used.

<sup>2</sup> This is briefly presented "The Glory of the Star of Bethlehem," [www.scripturescholar.com/StarOfBethlehem.htm](http://www.scripturescholar.com/StarOfBethlehem.htm).

<sup>3</sup> These signs were rediscovered between December 5-7, 2018 A.D.

<sup>4</sup> Esther 5:1-2; Esther 8:4; Esther 15:12-14; where Esther is the star.

<sup>5</sup> H.W.F. Gesenius, *Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament*, 1979, pp. 68-69, אֶסְתֵּר Esther <http://blb.sc/002zMY>. Esther is akin to the Hebrew Astaroth meaning the planet Venus.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. p. 34, Greek Xerxes or Artaxerxes, a title from cuneiform meaning lion-king, <http://blb.sc/003aBd>.

chose Esther from his concubines to become his wife and queen.

Later, Mordecai learned of a plot to assassinate the king, telling Esther. Esther told the king, who thwarted the plot, and they recorded Mordecai's act in the chronicles of the king.

Then Haman, the evil villain, was elevated as the king's highest official. Haman hated the palace doorkeeper Mordecai because he refused to bow down to him. He hated the Jews because Mordecai was Jewish.

Haman devised a scheme to destroy every Jew in the empire, and he bribed the king 10,000 talents of silver (75,000 pounds) to allow that plot to go forward. The thirteenth day of the twelfth month was chosen to exterminate the Jews. That date would become the feast of Purim. When Mordecai learned of Haman's scheme, he put on sackcloth. He persuaded Esther to intercede for her people with the king.

To make her request, Esther must appear before the king. The problem was no one could appear uninvited before the king except at the risk of death. It had already been a month since she had been summoned. The only exception to immediate execution was if the king extended his golden scepter to the uninvited party, then they would live.

Before Esther went uninvited into the king's presence, whom she called the lion (Esther 14:13), she requested the Jews in Susa, fast in sackcloth for her until the third day. She took off her royal robes, put on mourning clothes, fasted, and lay on the floor with her maidens for three days.

Then Esther put on her splendid royal apparel and went and stood before the king in his inner court (Esther 5:1-2). He extended his golden scepter toward her so that she would live. She invited King Ahasuerus and Haman to a private banquet that day. After the king was cheered with wine at that banquet, she invited them both to a banquet the following day. Mordecai again refused to bow to Haman on the way out of the palace. In wrath, Haman built a fifty cubit (75 feet or 25m) high gallows to hang Mordecai.

The king could not sleep that night, so he had the royal chronicles read where he was reminded that Mordecai had saved his life. When he learned Mordecai was not rewarded, he decided to honor him, and he asked who was outside the king's court. He learned Haman was there, so he invited him in and asked how he would honor someone the king desired to honor?

Thinking the king wished to honor him, Haman said dress the honoree in the king's royal robes, crown, and steed. Let the first of the king's nobles lead him around the city, announcing this is how the king honors one he wishes to honor. The king said to Haman, immediately honor Mordecai in this way, leave nothing out. Haman, in humiliation, led Mordecai around the city arrayed as the king announcing him.

The next day at the second banquet, Esther revealed she was Jewish and pleaded with the king for her people against Haman's diabolical plot. The king went into the garden to consider what to do and when he returned, Haman was on top of Queen Esther. Enraged, the king ordered Haman to be hanged on the gallows he built for Mordecai. The Jews were given the right to defend themselves and did not suffer any loss when they were to be exterminated.

The king gave Mordecai Haman's official position. The people celebrated God's deliverance and instituted the joyous annual winter festival of Purim (lot).

### **Planetary Visibility**

To understand the visibility of the various stars/planets in the picture, one must be aware of the attenuation of light near the horizon called extinction and atmospheric attenuation of light due to dust and water in the air and the effect of these on the sun's glare. Generally, this means

that within about 10 degrees of the horizon, the light of the stars is dimmer than it would be higher in the sky. Second, the nearness of the object to the risen sun reduces its visibility. Only the sun, moon, and Venus can be seen directly on the horizon at sunrise. Venus can also be seen throughout the day within a few weeks of the inferior conjunction. The atmosphere must be clear, and the sun is not too close to it, say more than 9.4 degrees apart. Extinction causes the sun, moon, and some stars to redden near or turn golden somewhat above the horizon. So, for instance, Esther was said to have a rosy face when she entered, and the scepter of planets was golden.

The Esther story reveals God's control of the changing visibility of the planets day by day. For instance, when Mordecai (represented by Mars) put on sackcloth, Mars became dark—so invisible. When Esther wore splendid attire, Venus became splendidly visible. From the text of Esther, we can figure out the approximate atmospheric clarity on the various days. Further, we can see on 8/28 that Venus was visible from the moment it came to the horizon. It says that Esther's train reached the earth and that Venus was reddened because her face appeared rosy. She whitened as she rose because her color turned pale. We can also see that, at one point, Mars (Mordecai) and Jupiter (the king) appeared to merge because Mordecai was clothed with the king's clothing, crown, and steed.

The planets like the moon can also turn golden near the horizon or even red right on the horizon.

Venus, at the inferior conjunction, just before it would do a heliacal rise with the sun, according to the Babylonian and Mayan records, would disappear for eight days. During this time, Venus could not be seen on the horizon (but it may be seen as the day star if sufficiently separated from the sun. Today, increased particles of dust, pollution, and water in the atmosphere cause the period of invisibility to be extended by about six days.



### ***Components of Esther's heavenly scene***

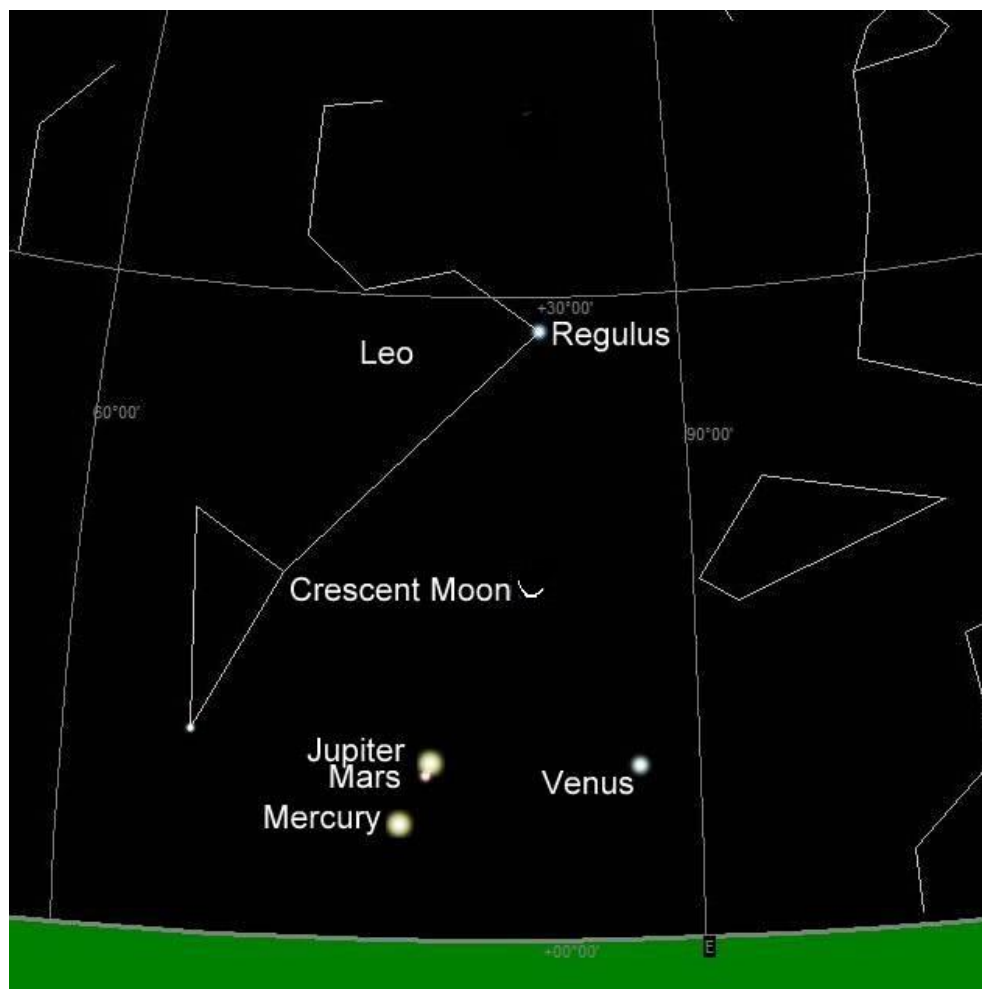
1. **Heliacal rise**—a light came, and the sun rose (Esther 1:1k) the lowly were exalted.
2. **The constellation of Leo**—Ahasuerus, the lion king
3. **The king's court (and garden)**—is the dark area before the feet of the constellation Leo. A court was a walled area open to the sky so heaven could watch the action.
4. **The door to the king's inner court**—the horizon at the feet of Leo
5. **Inside the palace or in either harem**—Invisible
6. **Jupiter and Venus set with the sun together in Virgo**—Esther went in to “know” the king. Venus exited Virgo [virgin] and returned to the king's chamber in Leo.
7. **The Jews of the city** were in sackcloth, so most stars were not visible, same for Mordecai and Esther. Notably, Mars and Venus were not as bright as Mercury and Jupiter.
8. **Jupiter**—the king; (or Mordecai dressed as the king).
9. **Mercury—Haman**—the second greatest man after the king (Esther 3:1).
  - a. Led Mars arrayed with Jupiter—Haman led Mordecai dressed as the king.
10. **Mars—Mordecai**—a doorkeeper stood near the king's palace entrance.
  - a. He never visibly dropped below Mercury unless Jupiter was also above Mars.

- b. He became a great man in the king's court—it didn't bow to Mercury.
11. **Venus—Esther**—the bright morning star (previously Vashti)<sup>7</sup>
- Vashti was Venus before Esther
  - Before Esther was queen, she was Hadassah
  - (2) six-month-long beauty treatments; Venus brightened as it approached the sun.
  - Visible at the horizon—her train reached the earth.
  - Visible near the horizon—rosy color.
  - Visible higher, but before the scepter—pale color.
  - Accompanied by two handmaids, she leaned on one. The other carried her train flowing to the ground. The minor stars were eventually visible in the dawning sky. (Esther 15:5-7)
  - The king permitted Venus to enter at any time—Venus is the brightest star.
12. **Moon**—Woman because Genesis 37:9-10
- The moon represents the mother; also Revelation 12:1, the woman has the moon under her feet.
  - As man and woman rule the earth (Genesis 1:26), the sun rules the day, and the moon rules the night (Genesis 1:16).
  - Song 6:10 who is she fair as the moon?
  - The moon rose near full in the west on 8/13/2B.C.
13. **The line of Planets Jupiter-Mars-Mercury**—the king's golden scepter was vertical.
- The ruler's staff formed at the heliacal rise of Jupiter.
  - The planet order changed when the scepter extended.
14. Mercury rose ten minutes after Jupiter, so it was doubtful if the scepter would extend to Esther for ten minutes. The scene rose for thirty minutes before sunrise.
15. **Lion's heart—Regulus** (Esther 14:13 or 4:17y)
16. The king hanged **Haman's ten sons** (Esther 9:9-14). Ten little stars around Haman. It could be a comet tail swept through their vicinity.
17. **Heliacal rise** stars about this time—Venus, Jupiter, Mercury, and Mars
18. **Sackcloth**—no one wearing sackcloth could come into the king's presence.
19. **All six of the brightest heavenly objects** are together at the horizon, a very bright dawn.
20. **Persian gallows** were a pole on which they impaled a person. A comet tail points away from the sun. So a comet near the sun would look like a pole to impale Haman.
21. **Drinking or cheered with wine**—the sky coloring the participants the color of wine.
22. Speculation, do the planets have a second meaning? Does the triangle represent the trinity, the moon appearing as a dove, Venus as Jesus, and Jupiter as the Father?
- Many details are only in the Greek version of Esther, confirming all of Esther is canonical.

### The Story of Esther Depicted in the Sky

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<sup>7</sup> Saturn high in the morning sky may represent a rival to Esther as the Queen of Medio-Persia.



This picture was the scene the magi saw in the east at dawn on August 28, 2 B.C. First, the constellation of Leo was upright, entirely above the horizon at dawn. Leo, the lion, represented the lion king, which happens annually for a few weeks. These planets near their heliacal rising with those positions is unique. The sign of the scepter started longer and more staff like on August 18, 2 B.C., with the heliacal rising of Jupiter. These events were centered on the heliacal rising of Venus, which occurs just after the inferior conjunction when Venus passes between the earth and the sun. Notice the scepter appears golden. The moon should appear as a waning crescent.

Venus depicted beautiful Queen Vashti. The first two signs presented in the series are subtle, and accepting them is not essential to understanding the story. While the king's party was in the garden, Vashti was visible in the evening sky. For the whole 180 days, Jupiter remained in the vicinity of Leo. Then Vashti disappeared into the palace for the next seven days; this was the period at the inferior conjunction when Venus was invisible for eight days. The king wanted Vashti to appear one day too early in the king's garden for Venus to appear.

After the king deposed Vashti, there was an empire-wide search for beautiful women (about six months because of the distance). Then the year-long preparation for each woman before coming to the king. Esther's wait occupied the nineteen months between two successive heliacal rises of Venus.

Since Esther went out from one location in the evening and came back to another location in the morning, she went from being the evening star to disappearing into the king's harem, where

she was unseen. When she was selected as queen and given her royal position, she became the bright morning star, which happened first at the heliacal rise. This is going in with the king and disappearing. The heliacal rise would mark the first possible day when the queen could become pregnant with her first child, one who could also only be the king's child, so a future king.

When Mordecai learned of Haman's plot to exterminate the Jews, he put on sackcloth. Esther put on mourning clothes for three days; these three days immediately follow the original appearance of Venus and the golden scepter on August 24. During this period, because of clouds or other sky obscuring circumstances, Mars and Venus could not be seen.

The golden scepter reformed during those three days, August 25-27. The top and bottom stars traded places. The top of the scepter extended away from the constellation Leo toward Venus. Mars then does not drop below Mercury, so Mordecai doesn't bow to Haman. Haman and the king came to Esther's first banquet (Esther 15:8). Haman, in anger, built a fifty cubit high gallows.

After the king commanded him to do so, on August 27, Haman (Mercury) led Mordecai (Mars) arrayed as the king (Jupiter) (Esther 6:7-11). Afterward, Haman covered his head (Esther 6:12). At that time, Mars was only about one minute of arc from Jupiter, so Mars being arrayed with Jupiter's clothing and being led by Mercury was an appropriate description. At this time, Mordecai became an official in the king's court.

On the next day, August 28, 2 B.C., the sky cleared dramatically, and the scene on the eastern horizon could be observed. The empty place in the sky before the feet of the lion represented the king's courtyard, garden, etc.



Most important, the king's golden scepter was extended toward Esther/Venus. Esther was clothed in splendid attire (Esther 5:1-2; 15:1), so Venus was bright. Since Esther's train reached the earth (Esther 15:7), Venus can be seen when it came from the earth at the horizon. Venus was rosy as she entered, but as the extinction lessened as Venus rose, she became pale (Esther 15:8-10). Esther came and stood before the king in his inner court, so Esther and the king were at the same level when the gold scepter tipped to Esther (Esther 4:11). The sign was still low in the sky, so extinction caused the planets to change color to golden, much as the moon does at the horizon. King arrayed in gold and precious gems (Esther 15:6) and called the lion (Esther 14:13). Leo represented the lion, and Jupiter represented the top of the scepter as the top of his scepter. The relief at the left depicts king Ahasuerus on his throne with a scepter in hand.

Also, the waning crescent moon had descended to its last day of visibility. It was just above, as an extension to the top of the scepter.<sup>8</sup> It

<sup>8</sup> I don't yet know what it means and the moon is precisely the same distance from Jupiter as Venus was. But the picture of a staff with a crescent moon on the top looks interesting.

also says Esther approached and touched the top of his scepter. So Venus came as high as the top of the scepter. This is also echoed in Esther 8:3-5.

On the next day at the second banquet, Haman was condemned to death, and Haman's head was covered, so Mercury disappeared. Mercury rapidly dropped toward the horizon, and limited visibility caused it to disappear suddenly. A fifty cubit high gallows points to Mercury disappearing much higher in the sky than expected.

### Summary of Signs in the Sky Interpreted

When Vashti was deposed from her royal position as the planet Venus, Esther took over in that position, changing the personality of Venus.

Vashti's royal position was represented by the planet Venus when she was requested to come before the king and the people after being hidden for seven days. She didn't, she lost her royal position, and it would pass to Esther. The reasonable minimum recorded time of Venus invisibility was eight days, so Vashti would not be visible on the seventh day.

The magi knew the book of Esther was a type or shadow of the coming world-ruling king. So this series of signs in the sky reveals a new, more important king and queen than Ahasuerus and Esther. This story implies at least some of the magi were from Susa, where they would be more likely to be familiar with the story of Esther. This heavenly sign displayed long after Esther had died depicted a king greater than King Ahasuerus the great.

<b>Date all B.C.</b>	<b>The scene on the eastern horizon or western horizon</b>	<b>Interpretation of the sky scene from the book of Esther</b>	<b>Sky clarity</b>
8/11/2 to 8/13/2 ❶	<b>Jupiter and Venus heliacally set together</b> with the sun in the constellation of Virgo	Esther goes in with the king from the virgin harem. Earliest conception of King Jesus (2:11-16 <sup>9</sup> )	extremely clear
8/18/2 ❷	The <b>heliacal rise of Jupiter</b> , a king's staff forms in Leo	A scepter or ruler's staff forms in Leo by Jupiter, Mars, and Mercury	extremely clear
8/23/2	The sun rose with Venus, so maybe a heliacal rising of Venus. Scene same as 8/24/2	Esther's first possible appearance before the people (2:17)	unknown
8/24/2 ❸	<b>Venus rises before the sun, vertical golden scepter</b> forms before Leo in the king's court	Queen Esther Venus, king with a scepter (Genesis 49:9-10; Numbers 24:17; Psalm 110:2-3)	extremely clear
8/25/2 day 1	Scepter breaks up; Mercury down; Jupiter up; Mars & Venus dark (they are fainter)	Mordecai in sackcloth (4:1) Venus in mourning clothes (14:2) Jews of Susa in sackcloth (4:3)	overcast
8/26/2 day 2	Jupiter & Mercury trade places Venus & Mars dark	Mordecai did not bow to Haman (3:2-6). Esther mourns	overcast
8/27/2 day 3 ❹	<b>Mercury leads Mars touching and arrayed with Jupiter</b> ; then Mercury hides	Haman leads and honors Mordecai dressed as king in the city square (6:7-11), Haman covers his head (6:12)	clear to less clear

<sup>9</sup> All References without a book are from Esther.

8/28/2 day 4 ⑤	<b>Jupiter tops the king's golden scepter extended toward Venus;</b> Jupiter-Venus-Crescent moon—equilateral triangle, king called lion (14:13) moon-woman;	Golden scepter extended (4:11), king in gold, and gems (15:6), Esther splendid attire (5:1-2; 15:1 ), Esther and king at the same level; Esther's train reached earth (15:7), Esther's color rosy to pale (15:8-10), Esther's first banquet (15:8)	extremely clear
8/29/2 to 9/3/2 ⑥	Mercury vanished impaled on a pole a comet tail appeared	Haman and king to a second feast (7:1-9) Haman impaled on a high gallows (pole) (7:10).	less clear

Purim was/is celebrated in the middle of the twelfth and usually the last Jewish/Persian month (Adar) about February. If a thirteenth month was/is added (Veadar). The second to the last month and Adar would be celebrated about January.

If the magi left Susa after Purim, the feast that celebrates the victory won by Esther, they would arrive in Jerusalem shortly before Passover, as previously described. If the magi left Susa after Purim 1 A.D., about Adar 15, they could arrive in Jerusalem by 10 Nisan, shortly before Passover. About 800 miles from Susa to Jerusalem 26, days elapsed at 31 miles per day =806 miles. Magi from Persia probably rode horses. Calvary could travel up to 100 miles per day.

Magi starting in Susa would likely pass through Babylon on the way and could well join with one or more other magi desiring to make the same journey. So magi could easily have come from both Susa and Babylon. Esther 1:13-14 describes the wise men of the Medes and Persians as the seven men who stand first in the kingdom and who had access to the king. Ezra 7:12 describes Artaxerxes as the King of kings, so the magi were first in rank below the king. They could rightly be designated as kings.

Now the signs in heaven are long after the time of Esther, so they cannot be signs from her time, so how can they have anything to do with Esther? They didn't have anything to do with Esther, but they told a similar story. The Bible has types or shadows of earlier events reflected in later events, so God had the heavens signal a more significant event than Esther's story.

So if Ahasuerus the great had a vast empire, then the empire predicted here is grander yet. This is because types or shadows point to greater future realities. If the threat to the Jews was significant in Esther's time, then the current threat was yet more significant, perhaps the extermination of all humanity. A Bible type or shadow is always less than the reality it points to, so the story of Esther was a type of the later story.

Haman had tried to destroy the Jews, so Satan would try to destroy the Jews. Jesus, the king, would ultimately defeat Satan.

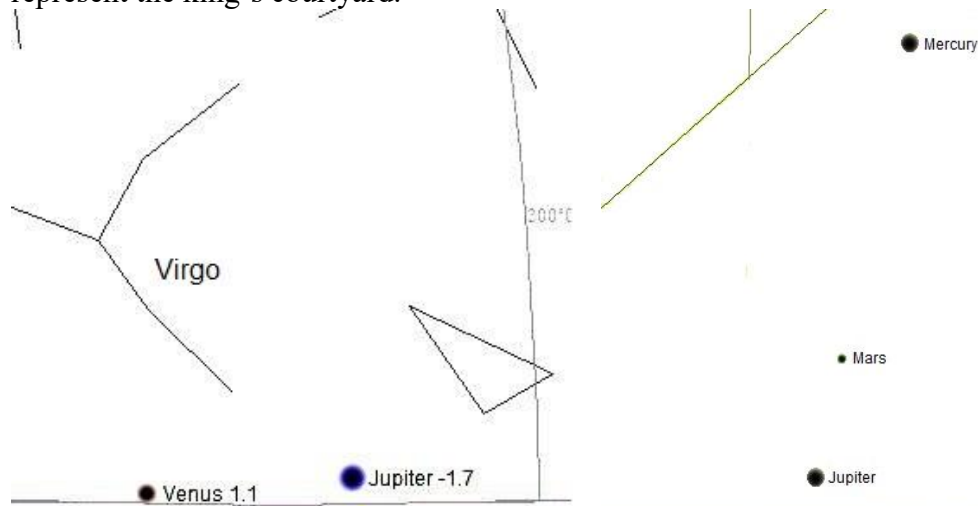
Esther was depicted as conceiving after going in the evening with the king at the inferior conjunction. She came out as queen in the morning at the heliacal rise. She conceived the future king no sooner than Venus changing between evening and morning star during the inferior conjunction ending with the helical rise on 23 or 24 August 2 B.C.

How can Venus change from being His (Christ's) star to Esther's star? First, Esther would be replaced by a new woman, Mary, Jesus' mother. Second, Esther/woman could be or was now pregnant with Christ, so the star Venus would then represent both the mother and the now conceived son destined to rule the world. Venus had also recently changed from Vashti to Esther. Jupiter could be either the king or Mordecai dressed as the king.

The following inverted color pictures are zoomed in snapshots of the scepter area of these signs for eight days from the heliacal rise of Venus on. The area focused on is believed to



represent the king's courtyard.



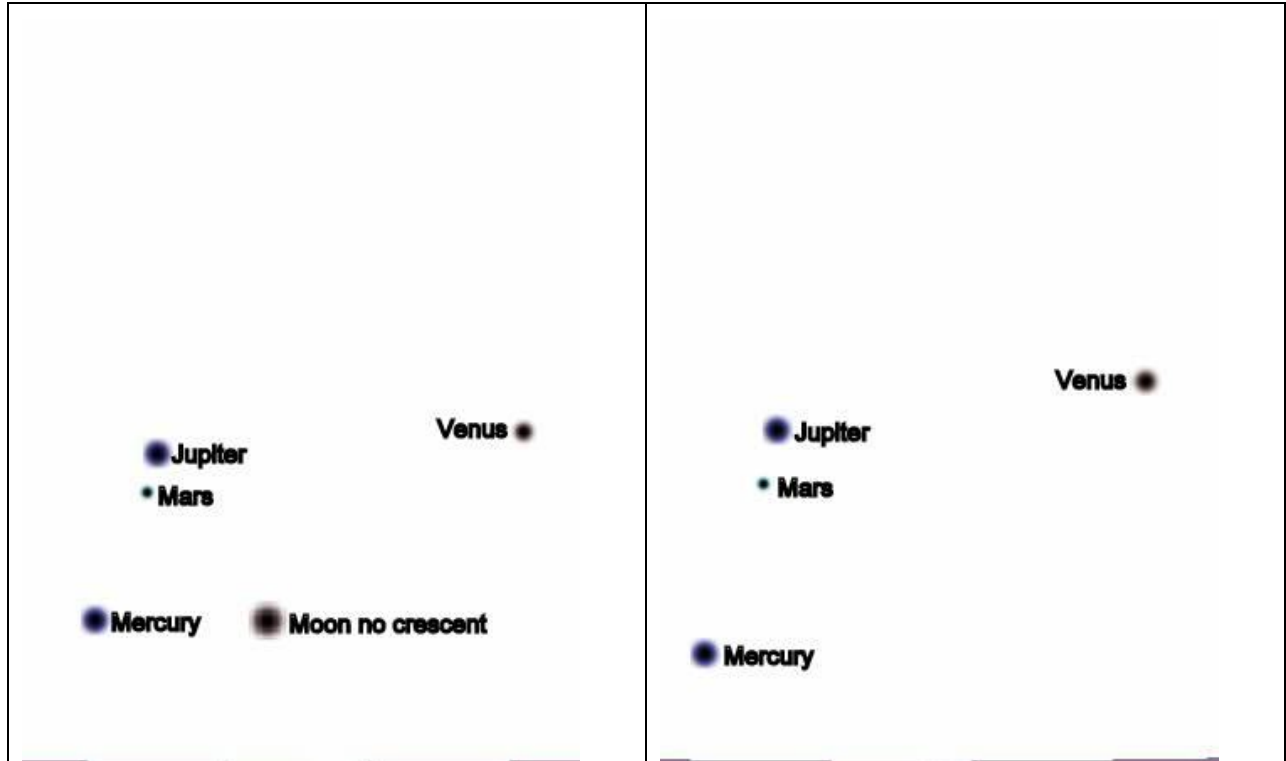
8/13 King and Queen retreat together at sunset earliest conception ①<sup>10</sup>

8/18 Jupiter's Heliocal rise—the king's scepter forms, long and staff-like at this dawn. ②

	Two somewhat cloudy Days, 8/25 and 8/26		
8/24 Heliocal rise of Venus, vertical gold scepter ③ <sup>11</sup>	8/27 sky less clear, Mars and Venus invisible ④	8/28 golden scepter extended to Venus & moon ⑤	

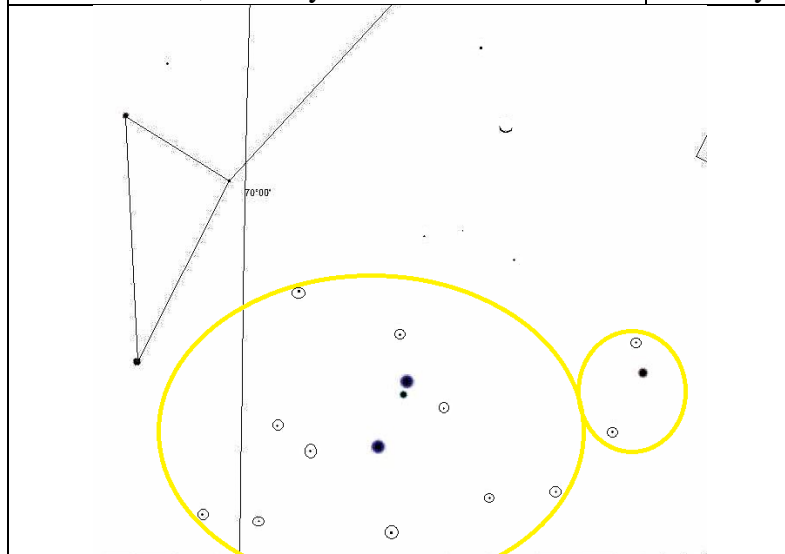
<sup>10</sup> The ①②③ etc. link to the table of the days in Esther's story. The picture is best on 8/11 but works on each day through 8/13.

<sup>11</sup> Star Charts by Cartes du Ciel, [www.astrosurf.com/astrope](http://www.astrosurf.com/astrope).



8/29 not clear, Mercury and Moon invisible

8/30 sky not clear, Mercury invisible



8/28 Haman's ten sons & Esther's two maids