

Only God Is Awesome

Esther 1:1-8 - Week 2

Esther 1:8 By the king's command each guest was allowed to drink in his own way, for the king instructed all the wine stewards to serve each man what he wished. 9 Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes. 10 On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him- Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Carcas- 11 to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at. 12 but when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

- No matter how **pagan** or powerful a ruler might be, they can never put a stop to God's providence.
- We must see everything as coming from the **hand** of God to bring glory back to God.
- God will, in the end, use Xerxes **narcissism** to accomplish the plan of preserving His people and His future will for the Jews and for us.
- Nothing you can do will stop all God has planned for you. You can only **delay** that plan.

We should always remember two things here:

1. God **determines** the when's and where's of our lives.
2. This is not our **home**. We do not need to be threatened by the worldly paths of **self-promotion** or the need of self-abortion or worldly power and possessions.

The **Drunken** Demand

- Persians often **drank** heavily while making political decisions. They believed that drunkenness drew them closer to God.
- Biblical **submission** means we submit one to another. It means God is bringing about my very best using my mate.

The Queen's Refusal

Why did she refuse to come?

- "I am not personal **property** for you to show off."
- "I am not going to be a **trophy** of your power and personal glory."
- She did not desire to have a bunch of **drunken** men looking her over.
- We know the king one day had a son. Could it be she was pregnant and refused to come because of that?

- Vashti was the granddaughter of King Nebuchadnezzar and may have felt the **throne** was and should be hers and had really no respect for the king.
- She may have been having a bad **hair** day.
- She may have felt his displaying her to these men broke **loyalty** to her as a wife.
- When she refused, it enraged him that someone would put **limits** on his greatness.

Her refusal was a triple offense on her part.

- She was a woman **challenging** the authority of a man.
- She was a wife **disobeying** the orders of a husband.
- She was **defying** the orders of her king.

The Bible does not **command** total abstinence from drinking, but it does emphasize it.

The King's **Weaknesses**

- He was a prideful, **boastful** man. He thought wealth and power were the signs of **success** but they were a sign revealing his own weaknesses.
- He fed his own **flesh** with drunkenness and pride. He had no boundaries set up to protect him from himself.
- Lastly the king was **vindictive**.

He listened to seven counselors who were probably star worshippers. They exaggerated the importance of the night so as to **inflate** their importance before the king.

Final Thoughts

- Make sure your **attitude** reflects Christ, not the king of your flesh.
- Make sure that you limit the time you spend thinking about yourself.