



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

ESTHER AND THE HATEMAN!

LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF ESTHER! PART I Esther chapters 1 to 2.

Honestly!, I was truly not intending to start this new year with a few more Bible studies.

I was hoping, in my carnal brain, to get into the end time and prophecies, and spiritual encouragement, and other lessons that I have supposedly learned.....

But here we are instead, by the wonderful Will of God, stuck happily and fortuitously in the wonderful Book of Esther! I thank God for that! I am so happy with however the Lord leads me!

Let's begin!

These absolutely mind-blowing lessons from the Book of Esther chapters 1 to 2 to begin with are totally out of this world. As I read them with my son last week, I was amazed, I saw things I never saw before.

Let's get to it quickly!
The book of Esther covers the period of 485–464 BC

We are in the Persian Empire.

King Xerxes is ruling, or King Ahasuerus, as he is called in the Bible commonly. **(I am using the NKJV) of the Bible today).**



Xerxes I c. 518 – August 465 BC), commonly known as Xerxes the Great,[4] was a Persian ruler who served as the fourth King of Kings of the Achaemenid Empire, reigning from 486 BC until his assassination in 465 BC. He was the son of Darius the Great and Atossa, a daughter of Cyrus the Great.

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This King in essence had several main qualities, good and bad: which were:

(i) He was a very generous and kind man. In fact, from what I can see, he had many of the

qualities of a 'Bishop' in the New Testament. He believed in communication, oversight and Love in the **first** instance. Good for him!

(ii) He understood the traditions and ideas of kingship.

(iii) He also understood the need for strict discipline for anyone out of line, or disobedient

(iv) He initially married, for whatever reason, the wrong woman.

(v) He also understood he needed to be married to help fulfil his 'ministry', sexual needs as a man, and also his Kingship.

So he was he therefore in a good position?

Like many Kings or males, he could be easily defeated by a female. No offence intended to **modern** females, who are completely different, we must caveat, wait, is that a joke? Who knows?

Let's not delay any further:

Let's go with the first chapter of the Book of Esther and I will comment as led!

King Ahasuerus (Xerxes), starts with the slow and painful realisation that his first wife is not the right kind of girl for the job!

Let's read the first chapter and get excited and amazed by God's Word!

The King Dethrones Queen Vashti

1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus (this was the Ahasuerus who reigned over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, from India to Ethiopia)

2 in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the citadel, (This is still in Babylonia)

3 that in the third year of his reign he made a feast for all his officials and servants—the **powers** of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the princes of the provinces *being* before him

4 when he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the splendour of his excellent majesty for many days, one hundred and eighty days *in all*.

(6 months of feasting!)

5 And when these days were completed, the king made a feast lasting seven days for all the people who were present in Shushan the citadel, from great to small, in the court of the garden of the king's palace. , (not far from the city of BABYLON)

6 There were white and blue linen curtains fastened with cords of fine linen and purple on silver rods and marble pillars; and the couches were of gold and

silver on a mosaic pavement of alabaster, turquoise, and white and black marble. ***

Let's take a break!!

This Persian King (Xerxes) had been in power for only three years; he reigned over 127 provinces or regions, he had control of all the gold and silver and titanium, precious earth metals, diamonds and whatever else was buried beneath the earth, that God had provided for him (for a short time).

{A Population of at least 20 million to 50 million subjects!}

Here he was, in his absolute prime; I suspect between his 25's to 35's years that GOD ALMIGHTY had given him, even all the wealth of the previous Kings of Babylon, and he inherited it all.

7 And they served drinks in golden vessels, each vessel being different from the other, with royal wine in abundance, according to the generosity of the king.

8 In accordance with the law, the drinking was not compulsory; for so the king had ordered all the officers of his household that they should do according to each man's pleasure.

9 Queen Vashti also made a feast for the women in the royal palace which belonged to King Ahasuerus.

Nothing strikes me more in the elections of various presidents or Prime Ministers that they have banquets and feasts even now in the 21st century at the time of writing ++)

*Now isn't that interesting that Queen Vashti had this Feast in the **royal palace which***

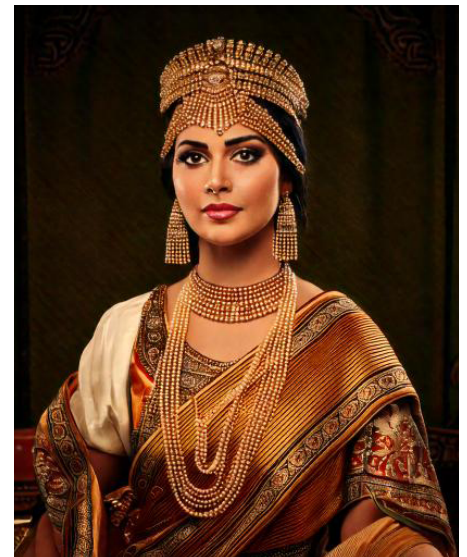
Belonged to King Ahasuerus.

Nothing in the Bible is by chance, why did the writer say

this sentence? It was clearly because the palace belonged to the King, it didn't belong to her. Which meant what exactly? It meant that even Queen Vashti was not possibly a Persian!! She just had the (temporary) opportunity to taste the riches of the Empire, or in this case Persia and her husband, she did nothing for it, except be very beautiful, which was a powerful currency of sorts and still is today. .

10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus,

11 to bring Queen Vashti before the king, *wearing* her royal crown, in order to show her beauty to the people and the officials, for she was beautiful to behold.



Here, in my opinion, is the very best example of the differences between male and female in the Bible. The King has **POWER**. The Queen has **BEAUTY**. And this continues absolutely to this present day. Power can continue for a long

time if used rightly, but Beauty will fade over 20- 40 years. Proverbs 31:30

12 But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command brought by his eunuchs; therefore the king was furious, and his anger burned within him.

In those days the very idea of disobeying a king, or even your husband was a step too far for many men. If you want to tick your husband off today it's easy, just disobey and dishonour him at every turn.

I expect in this case, King Ahasuerus, had told his guests, that his Queen was coming which in the days of no TV and internet connections, could be the best event for the evening. Perhaps it meant a display of dancing, we don't know.

13 Then the king said to



the wise men who understood the times (for this was the king's manner toward all who knew law and justice,

14 those closest to him *being* Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of

Persia and Media, who had access to the king's presence, *and* who ranked highest in the kingdom):

15 "What *shall* we do to Queen Vashti, according to law, because she did not obey the command of King Ahasuerus *brought to her* by the eunuchs?"

16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes: "Queen Vashti has not only wronged the king, but also all the princes, and all the people who *are* in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

17 For the queen's behaviour will become known to all women, so that they will despise their husbands in their eyes, when they report, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought in before him, but she did not come.'

18 This very day the *noble* ladies of Persia and Media will say to all the king's officials that they have heard of the behaviour of the queen. Thus *there will be* excessive contempt and wrath.

After the king's wrath had

subsided slightly, he didn't waste any time getting advice from his inner circle!

Memucan, one of the wisest was looking at the bigger picture, and realised that the Queen's disobedience and arrogance could easily be copied by all women in the kingdom, causing bedlam (and probably no bed!) and chaos in married homes! He wasn't wrong in that. As humans we are always looking at others to copy or emulate and follow in some form of behaviour. That is the way it goes.

19 If it pleases the king, let a royal decree go out from him, and let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it will not be altered, that Vashti shall come no more before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to **another who is better than she.**

20 When the king's decree which he will make is proclaimed throughout all his empire (for it is great), all wives will honour their husbands, both great and small."

Memucan wanted to nip this potentially dangerous development in the bud and remove the Queen immediately and restore the status quo, which was that "all wives will honour their husbands, both great and small." obviously this was how it was in Persia and Media.

21 And the reply pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of Memucan.

22 Then he sent letters to all the king's provinces, to each province in its own script, and to every people in their



own language, **that each man should be master in his own house**, and speak in the language of his own people.

The King's translators got busy, translating the decree into all the various languages. It was an explanation of the situation which had just happened, so that would hinder some gossip, and also a Royal Decree to keep the Kingdom ship very steady.

They did not only want to fire the Queen, but have another woman come in **who was better than** Queen Vashti.

And that is really where it all begins in God's story! Queen Vashti had lost it all forever. It was all gone in a matter of hours! We should all be very prayerful and careful in our lives. It only takes a small letting down of our spiritual guards and what we thought we had could be taken away. **Jesus Himself said it and confirmed it! Luke 19:25-27**

Footnotes

Esther 1:1 Generally identified with Xerxes I (485–464 B.C.)

Esther Becomes Queen

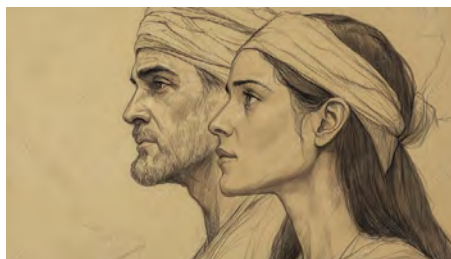
Chapter 2 After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus subsided, he remembered Vashti, what she had done, and what had been decreed against her. **2** Then the king's servants who attended him said: "Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king; **3** and let the king appoint officers in all

the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather all the beautiful young virgins to [a] Shushan the [b]citadel, into the women's quarters, under the custody of [c]Hegai the king's eunuch, custodian of the women. And let beauty preparations be given *them*. **4** Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti."

This thing pleased the king, and he did so.

So chapter two here begins with the advice of some of the King's servants. This is interesting: Kings seemed to be disposed in these days to 'listen' to others! This big plan though require 'gathering' young women from all over the empire to the palace here in Shushan (Susa). This was a massive project needing the assistance of officials from each province! The search was on for a new young blossoming beauty! Little did the king know his future wife was actually right under his nose in Shushan!

5 In [d]Shushan the [e]citadel there was a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai the son of Jair, the son of Shimej, the son of Kish, a Benjamite. **6** *Kish*[f] had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been captured with [g]Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. **7** And *Mordecai* had



brought up Hadassah, (++) that *is*, Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

The story introduces both the Jewish 'Uncle' Mordecai, and his adopted familial 'daughter' Esther, now for the first time!

8 So it was, when the king's command and decree were heard, and when **many young women** were gathered at [h]Shushan the [i]citadel, *under* the custody of Hegai, that Esther also was taken to the king's palace, **into the care of Hegai the custodian of the women. 9 Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favour**; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides [j] her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best *place* in the house of the women.

Beauty in these days was a big business, just like today. Here Esther obtains favour, which only comes from the Lord, and also immediately receives seven maidservants.

10 Esther had not [k]revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal *it*. **11** And every day Mordecai paced in front of the court of the women's quarters, to learn of Esther's welfare and what was happening to her. ^^

12 Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months' preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women. **13** Thus *prepared*, *each* young woman went to the king, and she was given whatever she desired to take with her from the women's quarters to the king's palace. ++

^^ ***a righteous male always takes responsibility seriously. It is in our nature, given by God to us. I am a male!***

++ Another truly amazing Biblical passage. This verse could be interpreted in so many ways. But the point is, that in those times, in the power of the King and the traditions of thousands of years, women, or the 'right women' were valuable. They could even be more valuable if they spent 6 months having daily massages with the oil of myrrh (expensive stuff, even today,)

Twelve months seems like a very long time to get in and be beautiful enough to see the king! This was an elaborate process to make the young virgins beautiful enough for the king to 'try them out' or interview them. I am having a very difficult time trying to choose between three wonderful part time secretaries for our ministry! They are all fantastic Christian women who would do a great job! I cannot imagine how I could choose between 1,000 plus prospective wives, as is still the case in at least one African country today!

14 In the evening she went, and in the morning she returned to the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who kept the concubines. She would not go in to the king again unless the king delighted in her and called for her by name.

Each young virgin got one night of opportunity to impress the king. We are not told what they did during the night, they could have been interviewed, seen by a doctor to see if they were physically suitable to produce children, as happens among royalty in history at some points in time. Various other activities may also have been surely indulged in. Anyway, after the one night, the young woman was moved in the house of the Concubines.

15 Now when the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his daughter, to go in to the

king, she requested nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the custodian of the women, advised.



And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all who saw her. 16 So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. **17** The king loved Esther **more than all** the other women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight **more than all** the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. **18** Then the king made a great feast, the Feast of Esther, for all his officials and servants; and he proclaimed a holiday in the provinces and gave gifts according to the [l]generosity of a king.

Praise the Lord, the King decided quite quickly, that this completely unknown to him, Jewish girl, was perfect to be his wife. **Favour and Grace** are wonderful things that can surround us and make us truly attractive to others, as we as Christians, represent the Lord on this earth!

The King was suddenly was a happy man and as we can see he gave everyone a holiday and gave gifts to at least some people! He had a feast (again!) and this time it was called the Feast of Esther.

Mordecai Discovers a Plot

19 When virgins were gathered together a second time, Mordecai sat within the king's gate. **20** Now **Esther had not revealed her family and her**

people, just as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai as when she was brought up by him.

(for some reason, and perhaps as 'exiles' and as an ethnic minority in the huge Persian Empire, Mordecai had told her not to divulge her ethnicity at this time). Wise guy.

21 In those days, while Mordecai sat within the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, [m]Bigthan and Teresh, doorkeepers, became furious and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. **22** So the matter became known to Mordecai, who told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name. **23** And when an inquiry was made into the matter, it was confirmed, and both were hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

This last section of Mordecai in effect really saving the king's life, and this becomes vital later in the story!

Well, we did not get to the 'Hateman' part of the story! We will have to save it for another week. We did get to Esther and that was a good start.

I pray this edition is a blessing to you. Thank you for your prayers for this ministry. Please also consider a donation by clicking on the icon below. Thank you. There is so much more to know in Gods Word. We are only scratching the surface!

Our love in Christ,

Jerry and the WCF Team.

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[Vashti: Judaism's first feminist bad girl - ABC listen](#)

Titanium is mentioned in this article. I write many of my articles completely by faith, and the Lord included the word 'Titanium'. Later I researched this and found that Persia (Iran) has major enormous deposits of Titanium! The Spirit bears witness, always and tells us the Truth about every small and inconceivable matter!

Footnotes for chapter 2:

Esther 2:7 Hebrew meaning "myrtle."

Esther 2:7 Lit *good of appearance*.

Esther 2:11 See note v 19.

Esther 2:14 Evidently to keep track of all the women, the first harem was comprised only of those who had not yet had personal relations with the king, while those who had were transferred to a second harem.

Esther 2:14 See note Gen 22:24.

Esther 2:18 or *a release from taxes*. The meaning of the Hebrew word is uncertain.

Esther 2:19 the phrase *sitting*

at the king's gate implies that Mordecai was some sort of an official in the service of the king.

Esther 2:21 the reasons for their anger is never explained. The ancient rabbis suggested that the king had replaced them with Mordecai, whom they considered a barbarian.

Esther 2:21 Lit *sought to lay hands on*.

Esther 2:23 or *impaled on a stake*. It is uncertain which method was used.

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