

BIG EVENTS AT THE PALACE
THE THREAT TO ISRAEL, PART 1
(Esther 1:1-22)

- I. The SPLENDOR of the Persian King (Esther 1:1-9)
 - A. The IDENTITY of the king—Ahasuerus (486-465 BC)
 - B. The SCOPE of his empire—from INDIA to ETHIOPIA (1:1-2)
 - 1. It was divided into 127 “provinces”
 - 2. His THRONE was at the FORTRESS in Susa
 - C. The DISPLAY of his glory (1:3-4)
 - 1. A six month exhibit of the king’s WEALTH and MAJESTY
 - 2. A gathering of all royal OFFICIALS and military OFFICERS
 - D. The BANQUETS in his palace (1:5-9)
 - 1. The king’s LAVISH banquet for his IMPERIAL LEADERS
 - 2. The queen’s banquet for the WOMEN of the COURT

- II. The DEFIANCE of the Persian Queen (Esther 1:10-18)
 - A. The king’s SUMMONS (1:10-11)
 - 1. He was “MERRY with WINE”
 - 2. He wanted to “display her BEAUTY” to the PEOPLE and the PRINCES

- B. The queen's REFUSAL (1:12a)
- C. The imperial CRISIS (1:12b-21)
 - 1. The king was ENRAGED
 - 2. He consulted his LEGAL ADVISORS
 - 3. They feared Vashti's EXAMPLE would encourage WIVES everywhere to DEFY their HUSBANDS
 - 4. They advised a royal edict BANISHING Vashti
 - a. She would be REPLACED by a more "WORTHY" queen
 - b. All women will learn to "HONOR" their husbands

III. The AMENDMENT of the Persian Law (Esther 1:22)

- A. Every man's "house" would SUBMIT to his AUTHORITY
- B. Every man's "house" would SPEAK his native LANGUAGE

IV. Lessons

- A. Grand displays of human POWER/HUBRIS can be TURNED to great HUMILIATION
- B. INVISIBLE acts of divine control OVERRULE the intentions of the most POWERFUL of men
- C. God is ACTIVE, not REACTIVE, in directing the affairs of humanity