



Earthly Powers: Divine Control

Esther 1

1. Why are you looking forward to studying the book of Esther?

2. What confuses you about God's sovereignty (total control of all)?

a. How has God's sovereignty comforted you since following Jesus?

3. Read Esther 1:1-2. How powerful was this king?

a. Do secular historians verify this king?

b. What other kings in the Bible was he related to?

c. What modern day location does Esther take place?

d. Why were Jewish people in this location at this time?

e. Where in biblical history does the book of Esther fall? Why is this helpful to understand?

4. Read Esther 1:3-22. What was the occasion for all the people gathering? Describe what the scene probably looked like.

a. How does the king abuse his authority regarding alcohol? How is Jesus a better king?

b. How does the king abuse his authority regarding his wife? How is Jesus a better husband?

c. How does the king abuse his authority by the leaders he placed around himself? How is Jesus a better leader?

d. How does the king abuse his authority regarding the law? How is Jesus a better law giver?

e. There has been a lot of talk about systemic racism in the past years. Though Christians don't have to agree on the *extent and impact* of systemic racism – how do King Ahasuerus' actions bring clarity to the reality of systemic oppression?

5. What do the following verses teach about God's sovereignty?

a. Proverbs 21:1

b. Proverbs 16:33

c. Psalm 119:91

d. Proverbs 19:21

6. Explain a time a person in authority abused their power in relation to you.

a. Why is their great comfort and courage in knowing that regardless of what abusers do – God is always quietly working out His Master Plan for His glory and the good of His people?

7. What is your main take away?
