

TAKE BACK YOUR HOME

Esther 1:20–22

20 And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small. 21 And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan: 22 For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that *it* should be published according to the language of every people.

The Book of Esther is a unique book in that it focuses, not on God's reign, but on the reign of Xerxes, king of Persia. In fact, there is no mention of God or the Holy Land (Jerusalem) throughout this book. Instead, the focus of this book is the Persian kingdom.

In chapter 1, we read how the queen, Vashti, refuses a request from the king. This creates a national crisis throughout the kingdom. The king's advisers warn that Vashti's actions have not only harmed the king, but they could potentially wreak havoc on every home. Every woman in the empire could follow the queen's example. Therefore, the king issues an edict that "every man should bear rule in his own house."

Now, my question is this: Is this edict by the king included for our sakes, or is it simply a detail included for the sake of the story? In other words, does the Bible teach that men today have the right to "bear rule" in their own home? I believe it does!

Genesis 3:16

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

Quite naturally, when we hear the Bible speak in these terms ("a man RULING his house") it can create a very strong reaction in us. This is because of how we have been taught to think of this word "rule" in a very negative way.

For example, when most people hear "let every man bear RULE in his own house," they *hear* "let every man TAKE CHARGE in his own house," or they *hear* "let every man do whatever he wants in his own house." But, these statements have been projected upon the word "rule" by our culture. To "rule"

or be in authority doesn't simply mean "to take charge". Instead, to *bear rule* or *be in authority* means...

TO BE RESPONSIBLE

When the Bible talks about "bearing rule" it's not just talking about taking charge. Instead, it's talking about taking responsibility. When a man assumes the role to "rule" his house, he is assuming *responsibility* for his house.

1 Timothy 3:4–5

4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

Notice, when the Bible talks about a man "ruling his own house," it's not just talking about a man taking control in house. It's talking about a man "taking care" (being *responsible*) for the well being of those in his house.

Titus 1:7 MSG

7 It's important that a church leader, responsible for the affairs in God's house, be looked up to—not pushy, not short-tempered, not a drunk, not a bully, not money-hungry.

Therefore, when we say "let every man bear rule in his own house," what we really mean is, "Let every man assume responsibility in his house." In fact, you can tell what caliber of man you are by how well you take responsibility for your own house. Unfortunately, we live in a society where men are judged by their individual achievement rather than the way they take responsibility.

Understand that when a person accepts responsibility they have an obligation or duty to care for those under their authority. This means every man is expected to perform the task of caring for his house. This also means that every young man who truly wants to be a man should understand that being a 'man' is not about how much money you make. Being a man is about how much responsibility you take!

To "bear rule" also means...

TO BE ACCOUNTABLE

"Bearing *rule*" in one's house also means to be *accountable* for what happens in your house.

Genesis 3:9

9 And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou?

Genesis 3:17

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Because the woman was under Adam's *rule*, he was the most responsible for their sin.

Numbers 30:1–5

1 And Moses spake unto the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, This *is* the thing which the Lord hath commanded. 2 If a man vow a vow unto the Lord, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth. 3 If a woman also vow a vow unto the Lord, and bind *herself* by a bond, *being* in her father's house in her youth; 4 And her father hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand. 5 But if her father disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the Lord shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her.

Here we're told that a father (man) can disallow the words spoken by his daughter. (The same is also true concerning the words spoken by his wife. [Numbers 30:6-8](#)) This means men are accountable for what is uttered in their house. Secondly, it means that God has given men a tremendous amount of authority in their home. Lastly, it means that women should be very careful who they give this power to. An irresponsible man (a man who does not accept responsibility or accountability) can bring irreparable harm to a woman!

With such great authority given to men, it's no surprise that many women are cautious, even reluctant, to give this power to men. In fact, many women believe that men cannot be trusted with such power. But, this is often a trick of the enemy.

Remember Satan seduced the *first* woman into believing God could not be trusted to look out for her best interest. Therefore, it's no surprise that he has convinced women today that men cannot be trusted to do the same!

Moreover, men must anticipate resistance to their authority, and they must do this without responding in anger, resentment or control. This is typically where men fall into those traits that are common with toxic masculinity. When men

begin to sense resistance to their authority, they will oftentimes try to *assert* themselves in ways they think a “man” should respond (i.e. being tough, taking control, not giving in, etc).

Secondly, there may be some men who feel they are *incapable* of being responsible (bearing rule). Just remember that when God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt, Moses felt also felt inadequate. But, what was God’s response to Moses? He said, “Who made man’s mouth?” God went on to say, “I will be with your mouth, and teach you what to say.” Let every man know this, God has made you for this!