

ESTHER

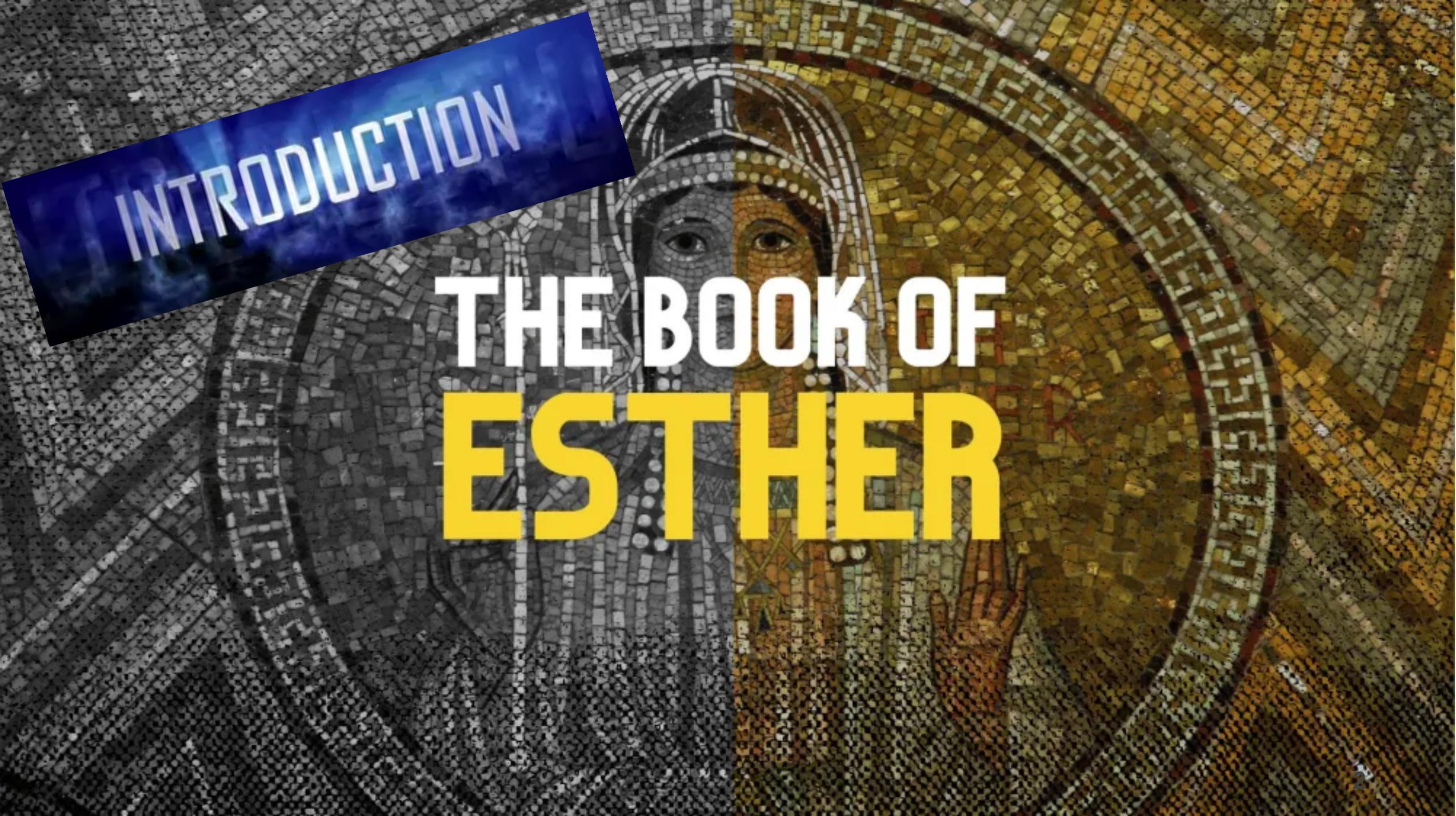
Dan Schuch

VLCC 2026



INTRODUCTION

THE BOOK OF ESTHER





Charles Spurgeon

Providence – As Seen in the Book of Esther

November 2, 1874

Scripture: Esther 9:1

From: Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit
Volume 20

You are probably aware that some persons have denied the inspiration of the Book of Esther because the name of God does not occur in it. Although the name of God does not occur in the Book of Esther, the Lord himself is there most conspicuously in every incident which it relates.



Charles Spurgeon

Spurgeon's Verse Expositions of the Bible

Introduction - Esther

The Story

While Esther stands out as the principal character, the whole story turns on the refusal of Mordecai to bow down to Haman, which would have been to show him divine honor. He did not hate Haman but, as a Jew could not worship any other than God. He dared to stand for principle at the risk of his life.

A Woman of Strength & Dignity

ESTHER



Profiles in Character from

C H A R L E S R.
S W I N D O L L

It's easy to see God in the miraculous. It's not so easy to see Him in the mundane. But that's where most of us live -without seeing handwriting on the wall or hearing Thunder from Sinai. We live with God, not center stage, but directing obtrusively from the wings.

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S W I N D O L L

This is all the more why we need to be sensitive to His voice - so we can be aware of and attentive to the subtle ways in which He works. And no book will sharpen our spiritual senses more than Esther.

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Profiles in Character from

C H A R L E S R.
S W I N D O L L

Though God is invisible, He is invincible. As the hymn writer proclaimed, “immortal, invisible, God only wise”. That may be the message of the book of Esther. The invisible God who may appear to be absent is the invincible God who is working out His wise plan.

THE NIV

ESTHER

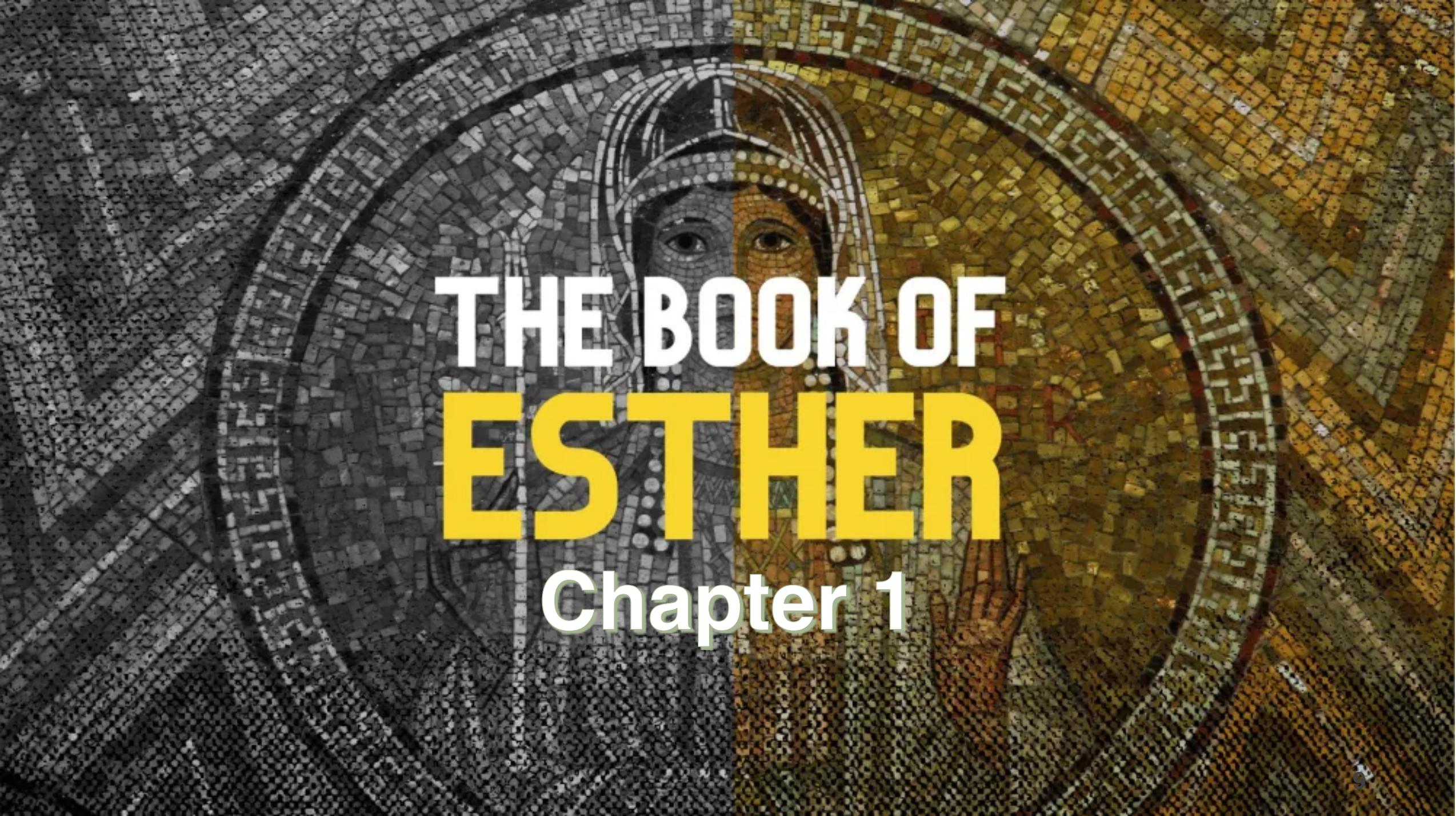
APPLICATION
COMMENTARY



From biblical text...to contemporary life

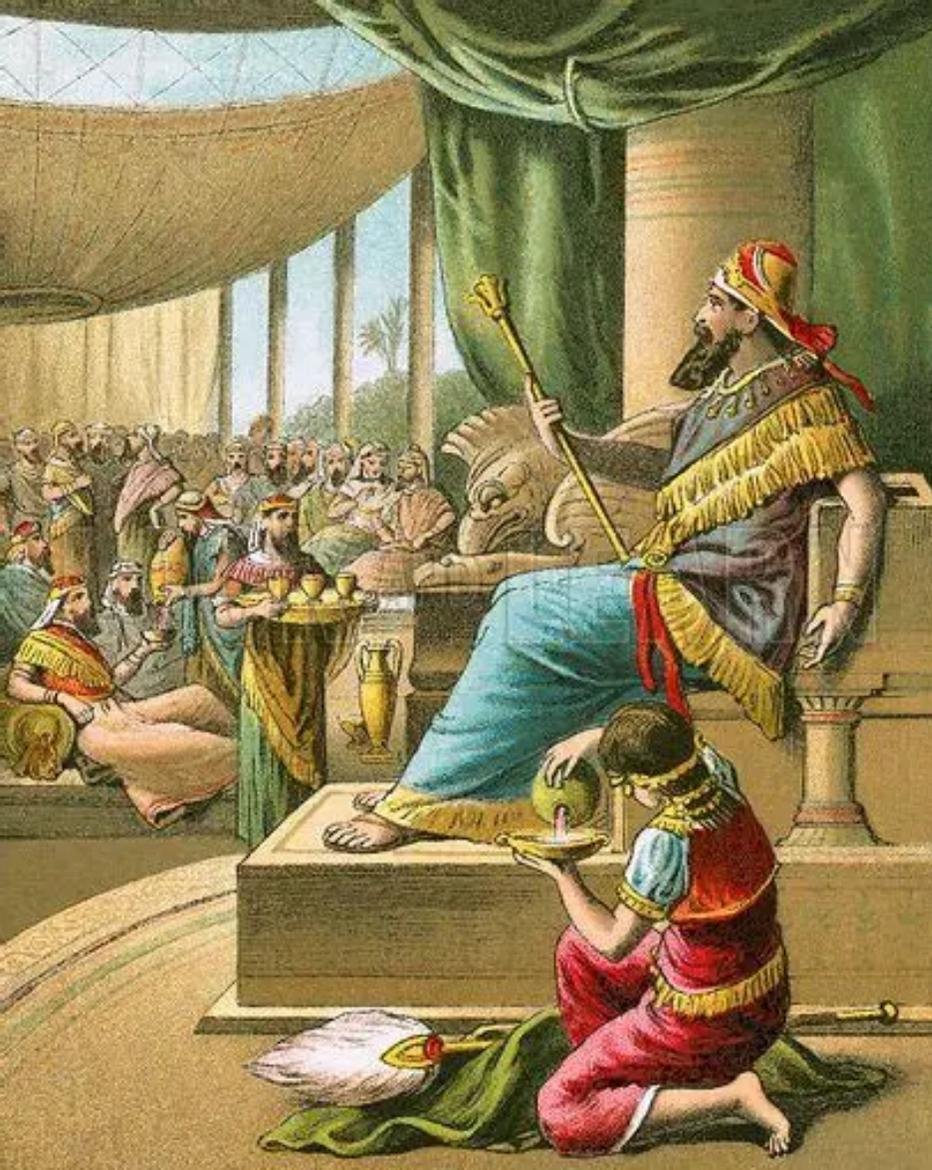
KAREN H. JOBES

The Esther story stands as a warning that whatever ease and prosperity one might enjoy, whatever worldly power and position have been attained, ultimately there will be a reversal of fortune that will end in death and destruction.



**THE BOOK OF
ESTHER**

Chapter 1



The grand feast of king Ahasuerus.
The Bible Picture Book (Thomas
Nelson and Sons, c 1870).

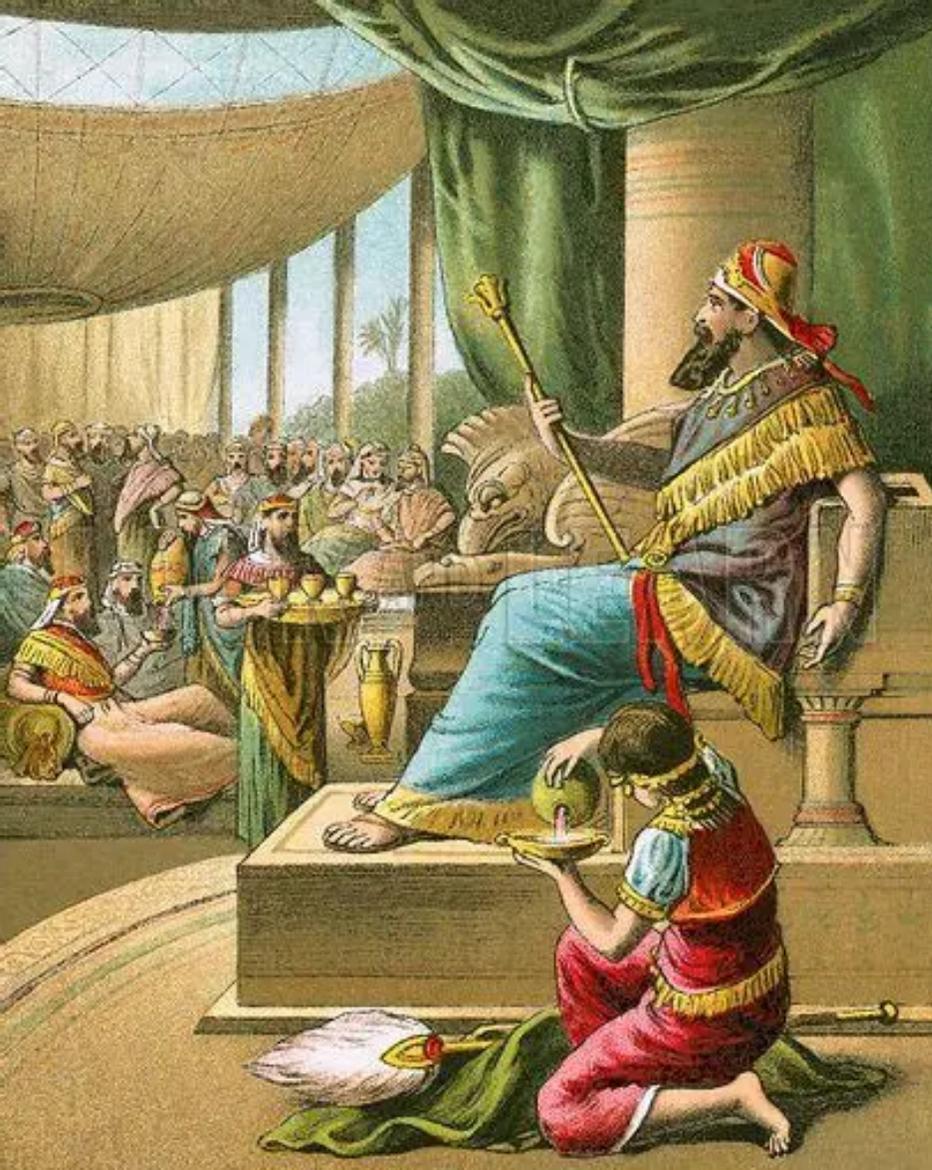
Vashti Angers the King

¹These events took place during the days of Ahasuerus, who ruled 127 provinces from India to Cush. ²In those days King Ahasuerus reigned from his royal throne in the fortress at Susa. ³He held a feast in the third year of his reign for all his officials and staff, the army of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the officials from the provinces. ⁴He displayed the glorious wealth of his kingdom and the magnificent splendor of his greatness for a total of 180 days.



3

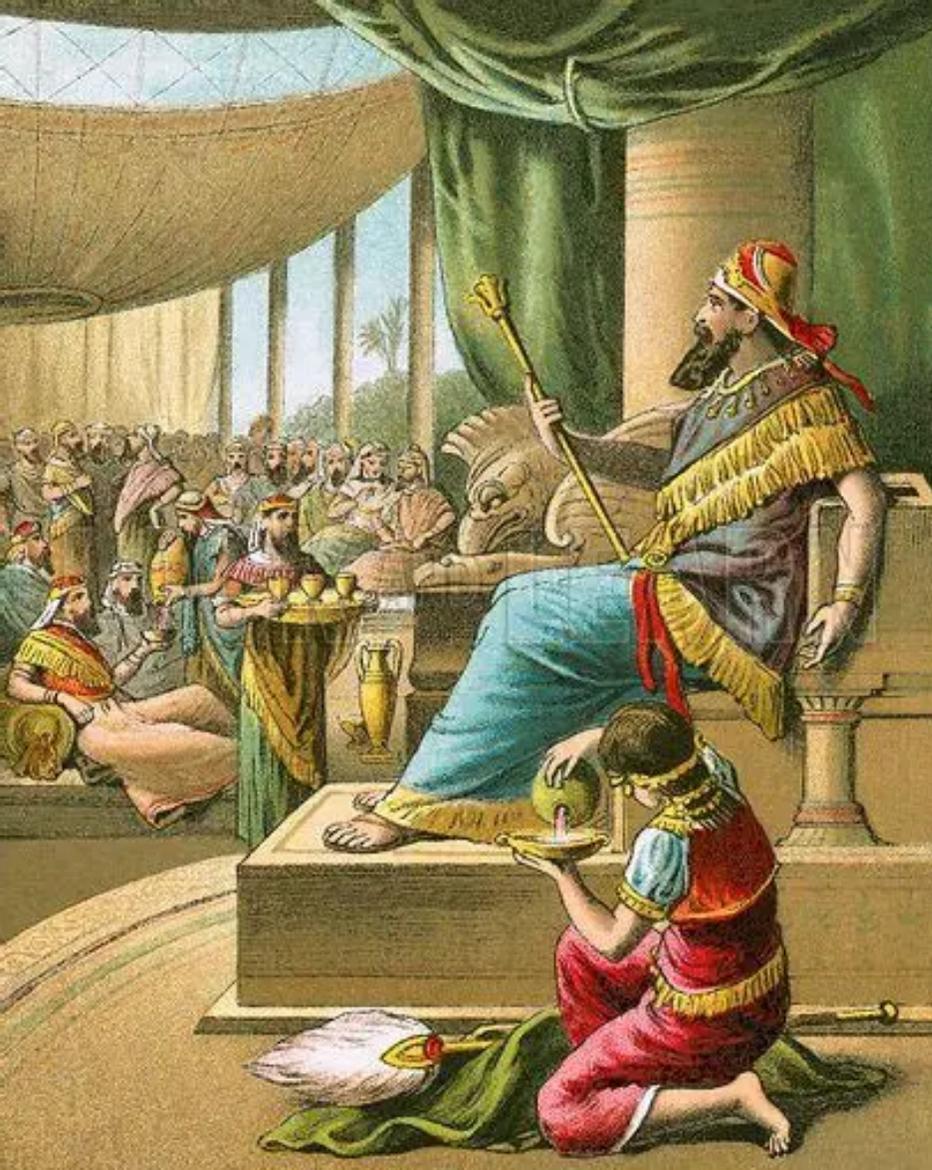
Shushan, located in modern-day Iran, was the capitol of the Persian empire (Esther 1:2).



The grand feast of king Ahasuerus.
The Bible Picture Book (Thomas
Nelson and Sons, c 1870).

⁵At the end of this time, the king held a week-long banquet in the garden courtyard of the royal palace for all the people, from the greatest to the least, who were present in the fortress of Susa.

⁶White and blue linen hangings were fastened with fine white and purple linen cords to silver rods on marble columns. Gold and silver couches were arranged on a mosaic pavement of red feldspar, marble, mother-of-pearl, and precious stones.



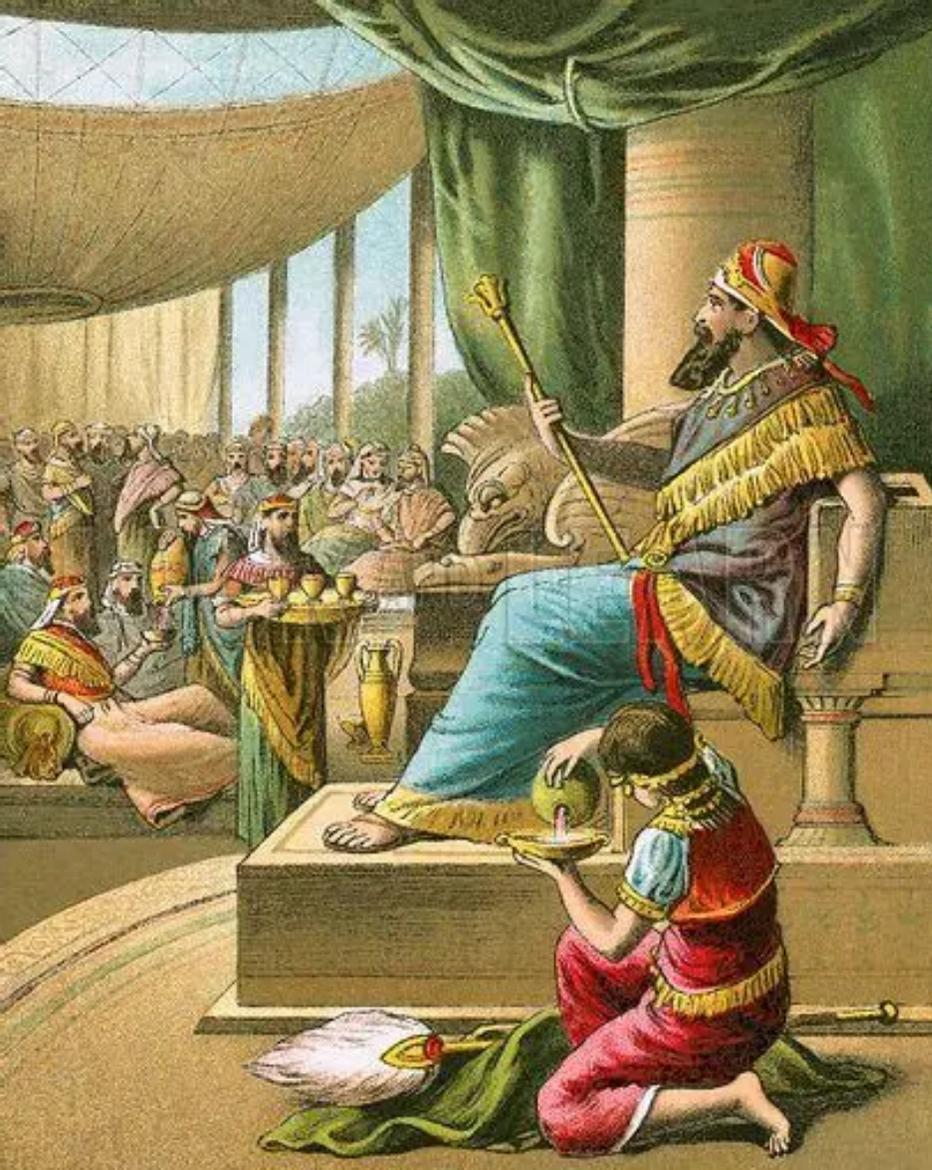
⁷Drinks were served in an array of gold goblets, each with a different design. Royal wine flowed freely, according to the king's bounty. ⁸The drinking was according to royal decree: "There are no restrictions." The king had ordered every wine steward in his household to serve whatever each person wanted. ⁹Queen Vashti also gave a feast for the women of King Ahasuerus's palace.

The grand feast of king Ahasuerus.
The Bible Picture Book (Thomas
Nelson and Sons, c 1870).



Queen Vashti Refusing to Obey King Ahasuerus by Gustave Dore

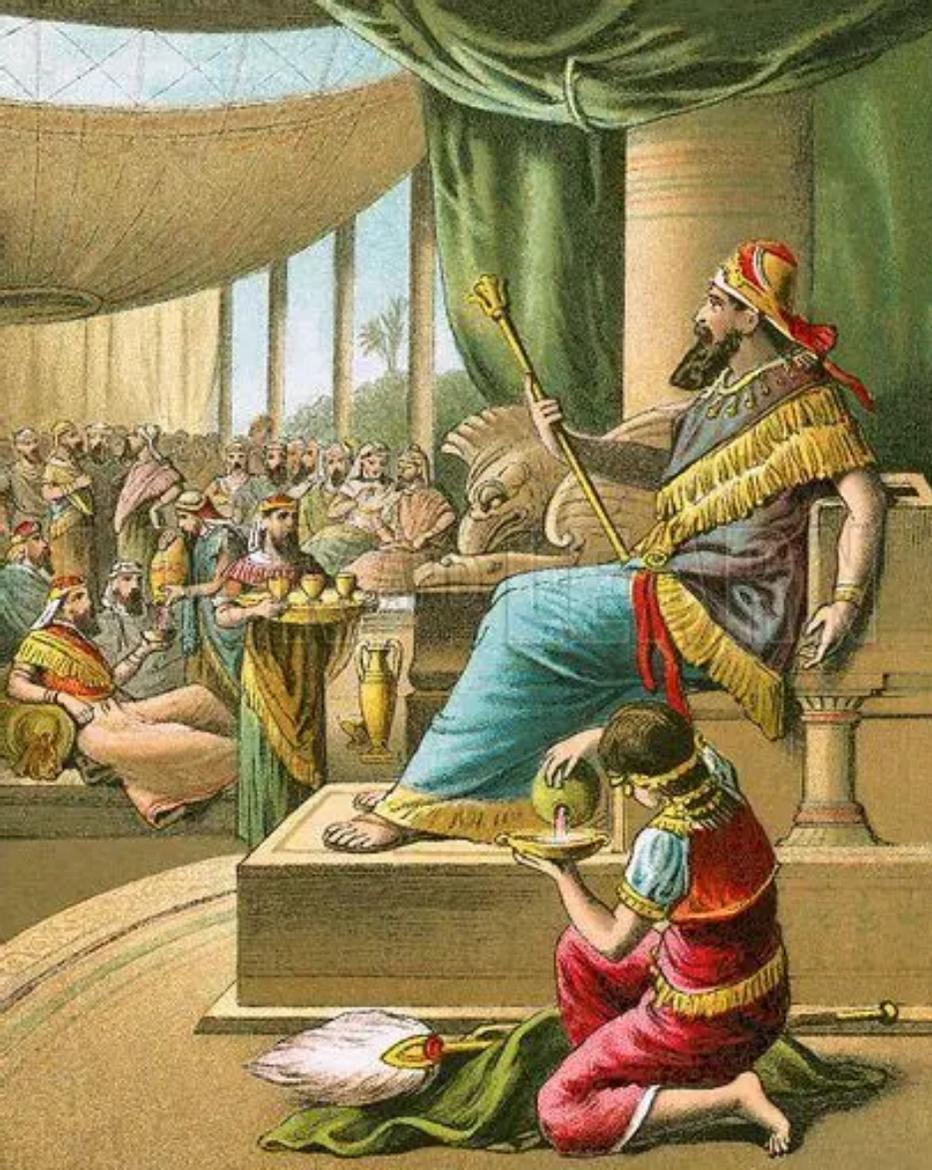
¹⁰On the seventh day, when the king was feeling good from the wine, Ahasuerus commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carkas—the seven eunuchs who personally served him — ¹¹to bring Queen Vashti before him with her royal crown. He wanted to show off her beauty to the people and the officials, because she was very beautiful. ¹²But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king’s command that was delivered by his eunuchs. The king became furious and his anger burned within him.



The King's Decree

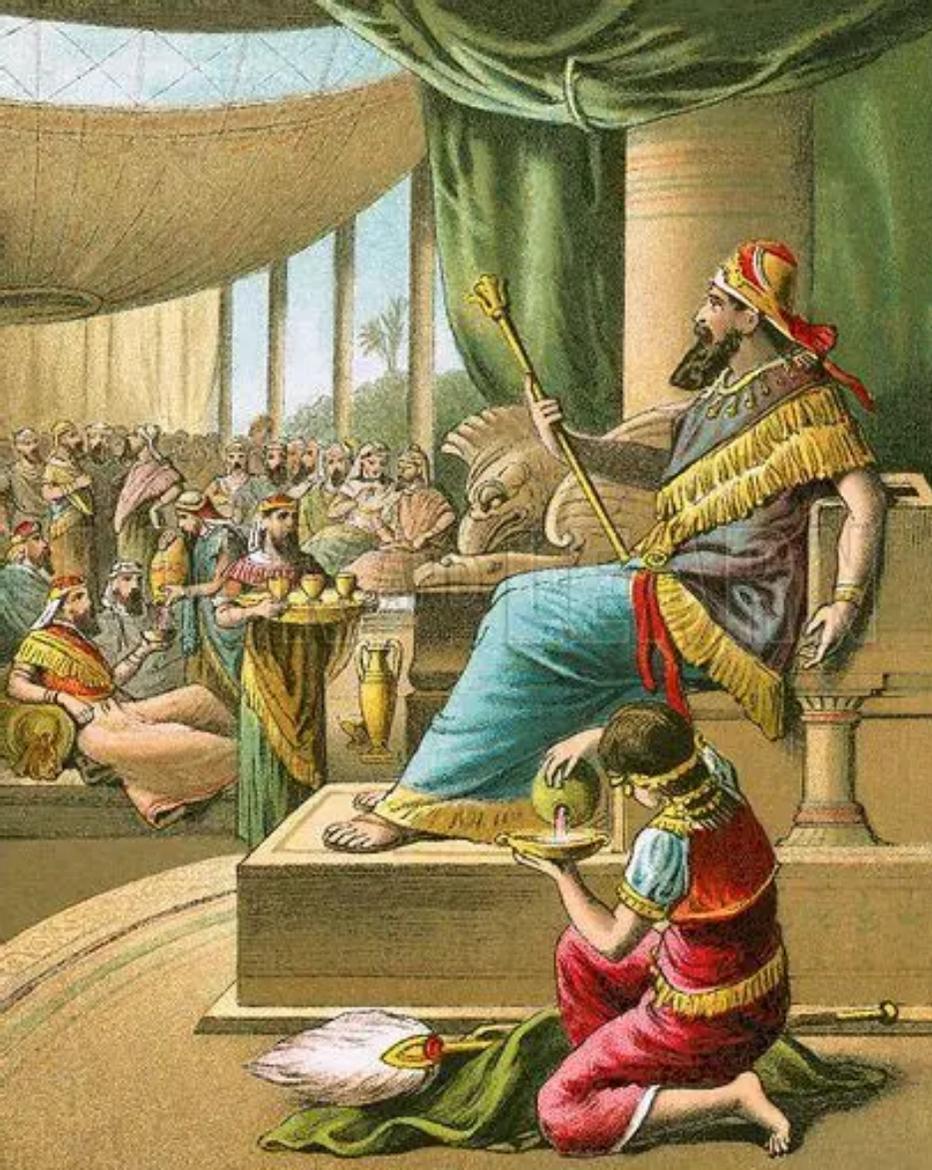
¹³The king consulted the wise men who understood the times, for it was his normal procedure to confer with experts in law and justice. ¹⁴The most trusted ones were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan. They were the seven officials of Persia and Media who had personal access to the king and occupied the highest positions in the kingdom.

The grand feast of king Ahasuerus.
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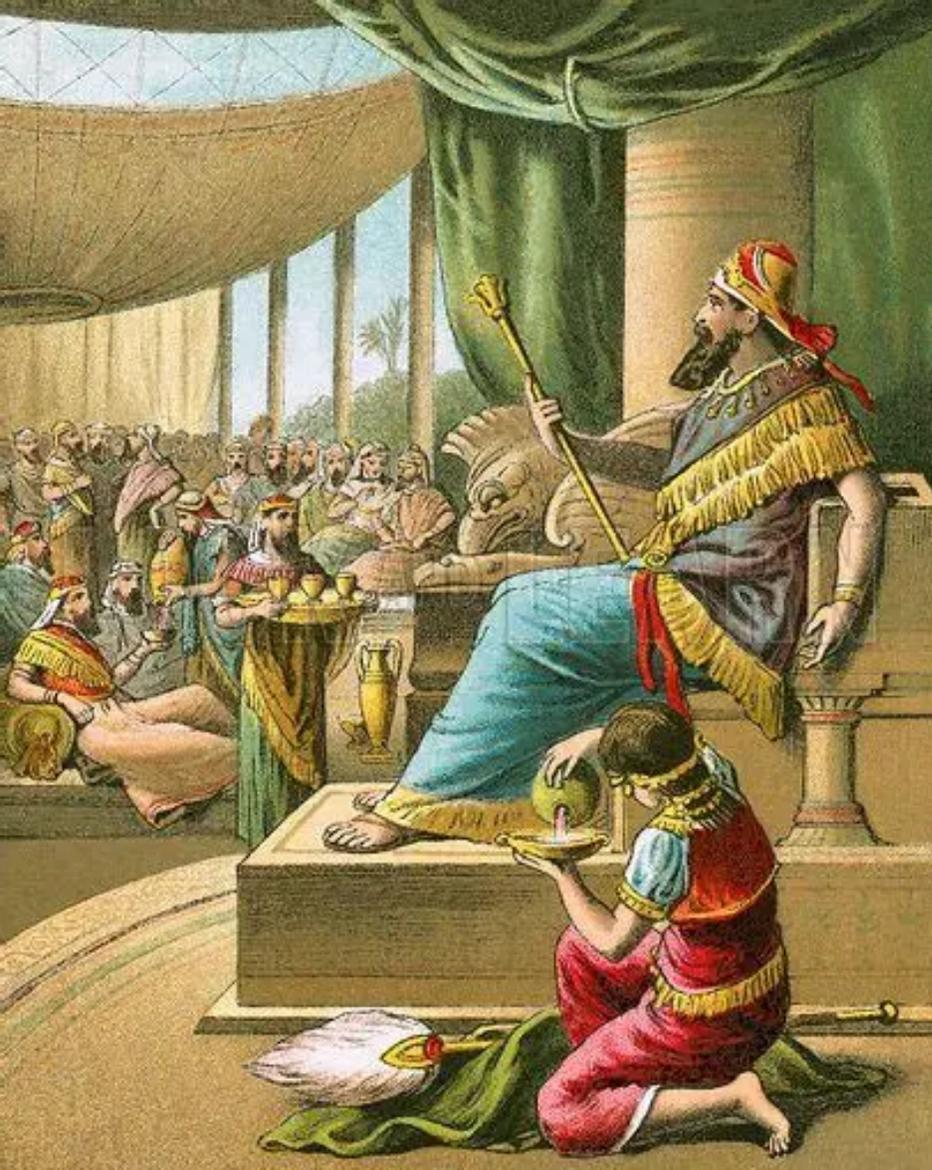
¹⁵The king asked, “According to the law, what should be done with Queen Vashti, since she refused to obey King Ahasuerus’s command that was delivered by the eunuchs?”

The grand feast of king Ahasuerus.
The Bible Picture Book (Thomas
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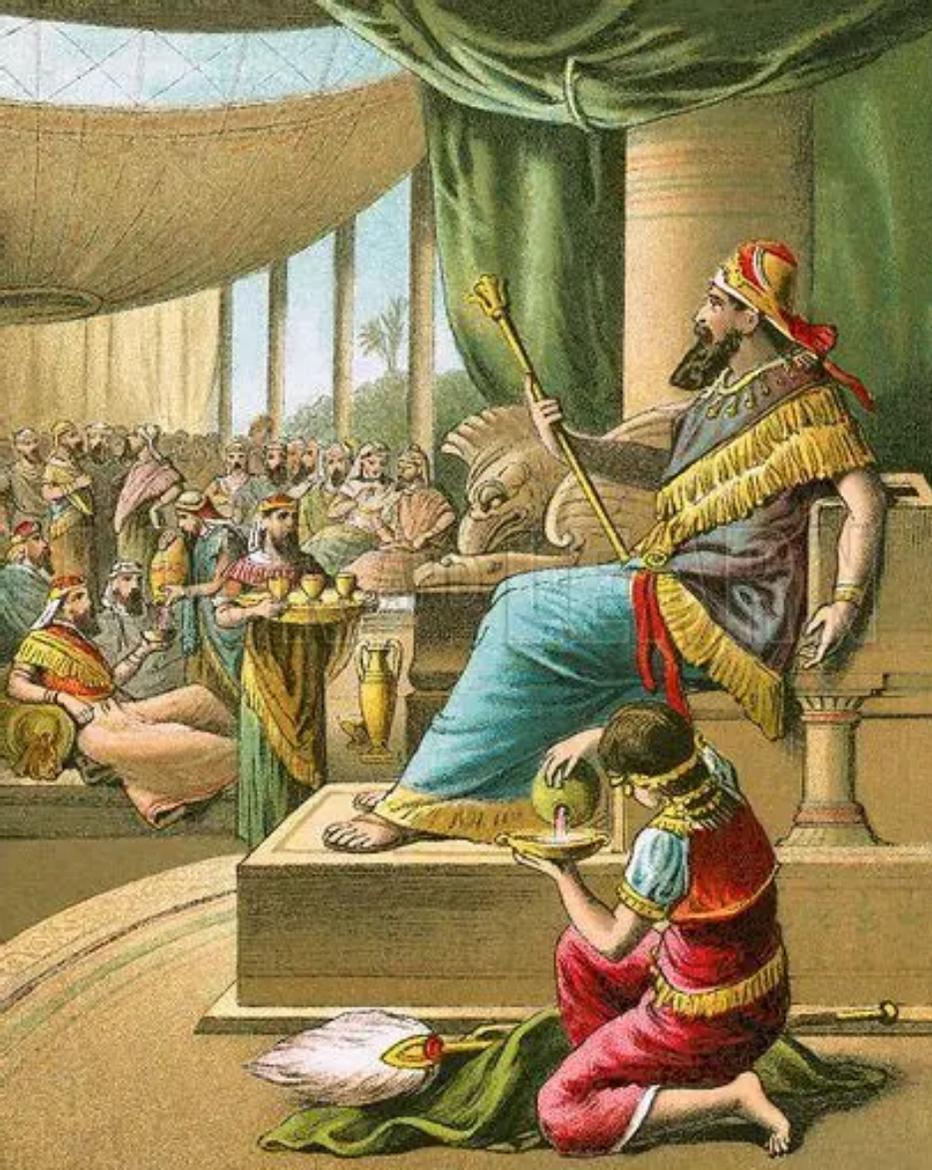
The grand feast of king Ahasuerus.
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¹⁶Memucan said in the presence of the king and his officials, “Queen Vashti has wronged not only the king, but all the officials and the peoples who are in every one of King Ahasuerus’s provinces. ¹⁷For the queen’s action will become public knowledge to all the women and cause them to despise their husbands and say, ‘King Ahasuerus ordered Queen Vashti brought before him, but she did not come.’



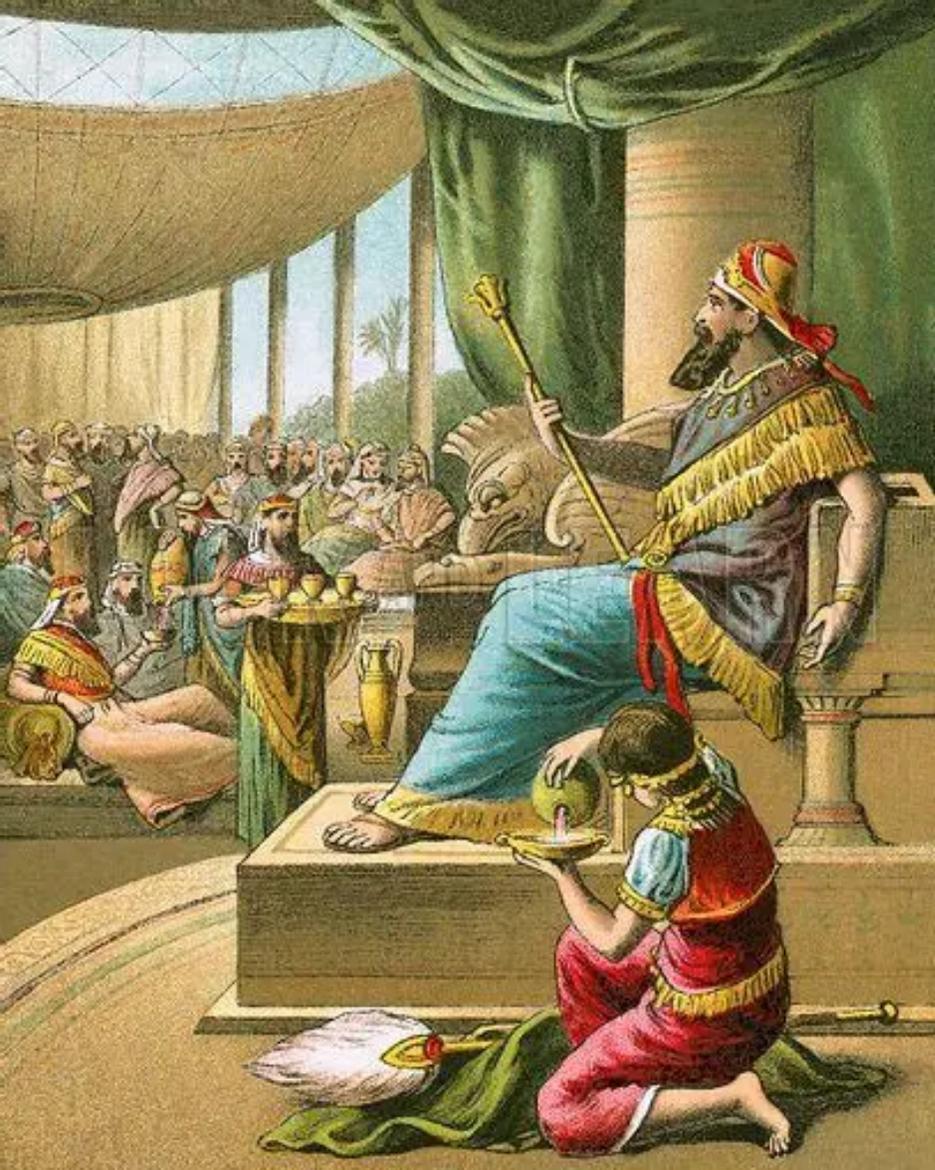
18 Before this day is over, the noble women of Persia and Media who hear about the queen's act will say the same thing to all the king's officials, resulting in more contempt and fury.

The grand feast of king Ahasuerus.
The Bible Picture Book (Thomas
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19“If it meets the king’s approval, he should personally issue a royal decree. Let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it cannot be revoked: Vashti is not to enter King Ahasuerus’s presence, and her royal position is to be given to another woman who is more worthy than she. **20**The decree the king issues will be heard throughout his vast kingdom, so all women will honor their husbands, from the greatest to the least.”

The grand feast of king Ahasuerus.
The Bible Picture Book (Thomas
Nelson and Sons, c 1870).



21The king and his counselors approved the proposal, and he followed Memucan's advice. **22**He sent letters to all the royal provinces, to each province in its own script and to each ethnic group in its own language, that every man should be master of his own house and speak in the language of his own people.

The grand feast of king Ahasuerus.
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**KEEP
CALM
AND
START
DIGGING!**





Charles Spurgeon

Spurgeon's Verse Expositions of the Bible

Introduction - Esther

Connection with Other Books.

There is no connection between Esther and the other books of the Bible. While it is a story of the time when the Jews were returning to Jerusalem, and very likely should come between the first and second return, and, therefore, between the sixth and seventh chapters of Ezra, the incident stands alone. Without it we would lose much of our knowledge of that period.

A Woman of Strength & Dignity

ESTHER



Profiles in Character from

CHARLES R.
SWINDOLL

The word “Jews” is mentioned over 50 times in the book of Esther.

So, are women supposed to do everything their husband tells them to do?

²²Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:22-34

I believe in a wife submitting to her husband, *but I don't believe the husband ever has the right to demand it.* In fact, I know that when I am worthy of submission, my wife submits; And when I am unworthy of it, she does not. My responsibility as a husband is to be worthy.

Scot McKnight

What would one word be that characterizes King Ahasuerus?



What was the motive behind the advice that the king's "wise" men gave him?



Esther & Ruth

REFORMED
EXPOSITORY
COMMENTARY

IAIN M. DUGUID

The Persians held all the power in their hands and the Jews had none. Even though these Jews had been born in Persia, they were exiles far from their homeland, surrounded by strangers. Their property could be seized or their life ended in a moment on the whim of some petty bureaucrat.

Esther & Ruth

REFORMED
EXPOSITORY
COMMENTARY

IAIN M. DUGUID

If assimilation was one temptation that faced the people of Esther's day, then despair was surely another. They were surrounded by a fickle, all-powerful empire that might well turn out to be antagonistic, and they followed the God whose ways were often inscrutable, invisible, and mysterious. What, then, could keep them from despair?

A Woman of Strength & Dignity

ESTHER



Profiles in Character from

C H A R L E S R.
S W I N D O L L

Esther - she was his uncle's daughter for she had no father or mother. Now the young lady was beautiful of form and face, and when her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

A Woman of Strength & Dignity

ESTHER

*Profiles in Character from*CHARLES R.
SWINDOLL

She was a lowly Jewish woman who was as dazzling in outer beauty as she was in inner beauty. In fact, her name is the Persian name for “star” and she later ascended to the throne as queen after Vashti had a meteoric fall from the King’s grace.