

 **Esther 1:10-22**
A DRUNK RULER, DEFIANT WIFE & DIVINE PROVIDENCE**I. What's Happening in the _____ (1:10-22)?**

- A. The king's _____ demand (vs.10-11)
- B. The Queen's definite _____ (v.12)
- C. The counselor's despicable _____ (vs.13-20)
- D. The king's _____ decision (v.21)
- E. The king's _____ decree (v.22)

A. The king's _____ demand (vs.10-11)

¹⁰ On the seventh day of the feast, when King Xerxes was in high spirits because of the wine, he told the seven eunuchs who attended him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas—¹¹ to bring Queen Vashti to him with the royal crown on her head. He wanted the nobles and all the other men to gaze on her beauty, for she was a very beautiful woman.

B. The Queen's definite _____ (v.12)

¹² But when they conveyed the king's order to Queen Vashti, she refused to come. This made the king furious, and he burned with anger.

C. The counselor's despicable _____ (vs.13-20)

¹⁶ Memucan answered the king and his nobles, "Queen Vashti has wronged not only the king but also every noble and citizen throughout your empire.¹⁷ Women everywhere will begin to despise their husbands when they learn that Queen Vashti has refused to appear before the king.¹⁸ Before this day is out, the wives of all the king's nobles throughout Persia and Media will hear what the queen did and will start treating their husbands the same way. There will be no end to their contempt and anger.¹⁹ "So if it please the king, we suggest that you issue a written decree, a law of the Persians and Medes that cannot be revoked. It should order that Queen Vashti be forever banished from the presence of King Xerxes, and that the king should choose another queen more worthy than she.²⁰ When this decree is published throughout the king's vast empire, husbands everywhere, whatever their rank, will receive proper respect from their wives!"

D. The king's _____ decision (v.21)

²¹ The king and his nobles thought this made good sense, so he followed Memucan's counsel.

E. The king's _____ decree (v.22)

²² He sent letters to all parts of the empire, to each province in its own script and language, proclaiming that every man should be the ruler of his own home and should say whatever he pleases.

➤ **Read Proverbs 16:18 --**

- ✓ What does this verse tell us?
- ✓ How does this verse speak about Ahasuerus's condition? The king wanted to be honored but instead he was humbled--not just in his palace but in every province.

➤ **Read Galatians 6:14 –**

- ✓ How does this verse help us to keep our focus in finding honor in the right place and not in and for ourselves?

FINDING JESUS IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER

II. Finding Christ IN ESTHER

1. Ahasuerus had more _____ than power, Jesus's power is _____.
2. Ahasuerus made decisions based on his fickle and untrustworthy _____, Jesus's decisions are rooted in His _____ & for our _____.
3. As a husband Ahasuerus was _____, Jesus as the groom of the Church was _____.
4. Vashti did not _____ to deserve Ahasuerus's affection and attention, Christ set His affection & attention on us even when we were in our _____ state.
5. Ahasuerus _____ honor, Jesus received _____. (Revelation 5:11-14).

What Can We Learn About Christ?

¹¹ Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. ¹² And they sang in a mighty chorus: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered— to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing." ¹³ And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang: "Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever." ¹⁴ And the four living beings said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the Lamb.

REFLECTION

Q 1 : Ahasuerus could not be trusted with absolute power.
Why, however, can Christ be trusted with all authority?
In what ways is this comforting?

Q2 : God used Ahasuerus's wretchedness and Vashti's rebellion to open
the door for Esther's future reign.
What does this tell you about God's sovereignty and providence?