

# DRINKING PARTIES & DIVINE PROVIDENCE

## Esther 1:1-22

### From Pastor Phillip

Welcome to our series in *Esther: Silent Sovereignty!* The name of God is not found in the book of Esther. He appears to be hidden. God's people who were living in Persia may have wondered if God was really with them, or if he had abandoned them. However, the sovereign fingerprints of God are all over the book of Esther. In a chain of seemingly ordinary events, God fulfills his covenant promises through his providence. The book of Esther shows believers today that even through pagan rulers and ordinary events, God is ruling over all things for the benefit of his people and the glory of his name.

#### Introduction

- Silence in Esther
- Sovereignty in Esther

#### I. The Setting of Esther (vv. 1-3)

- A. Ahasuerus is Reigning (486 –465 BC)
- B. The Persian Empire (539 – 330 BC)
- C. The Citadel of Susa

#### II. The Splendor of the King (vv. 4-9)

- A. Expensive Palace
- B. Extensive Wine

#### III. The Sin of the King (vv. 10-12)

- A. Pride
- B. Drunkenness
- C. Anger

#### IV. The Stage is Set (vv. 13-22)

- A. A Demanding King
- B. A Demoted Queen
- C. A Divine Plan

#### V. The Savior We Need

- A. Ahasuerus vs. Jesus

### TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

1. Has there ever been a time when you felt like God was silent? When was that, and how did you eventually come to acknowledge his faithfulness and his promises? When we feel God is silent, what should we do?
2. How can the book of Esther be an encouragement to us if we are concerned by pagan and powerful rulers?
3. How are we, like Ahasuerus, ever tempted to declare our own glory and greatness instead of God's?
4. God uses Ahasuerus's wretchedness and Vashti's refusal to open the door for Esther's future reign. What does this tell you about his sovereignty and providence?
5. In what ways is Jesus a better king than Ahasuerus?

**FOR NEXT TIME**— Read Esther 2:1-18, *Sovereignty in Sin and Suffering*