

# The King of Heroes

**Text:** Esther 1

**Series:** For Such A Time as This

**Supplemental Texts:** See below

South Orlando Baptist Church

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As we are introduced to the great king Ahasuerus ...

1. See his exalted position (vs. 1-8)
  - A. He is the great king of Persia, lording over 127 provinces, from India to Ethiopia.
  - B. His name means, "King of Heroes."
  - C. His party lasted for six months with his nobles and for one week for all of the people of Susa without any restraint on drinking wine.
2. Survey his marital problems (vs. 9-18)
  - A. He summons the Queen to appear for him, and she refuses.
  - B. Many were concerned that her rebellion would spread throughout the empire.
3. Study his absolute power (vs. 19-22)
  - A. Ahasuerus could issue a royal decree that could not be revoked (vs. 19).
  - B. The king issues a decree that all women honor their husbands (vs. 20).

**Applications:**

1. Study Scripture in view of the Big Picture
2. See God's Providence in World Events
3. Sense God's Presence, even when he cannot be seen.

**Where is Jesus?**

In direct contrast to Ahasuerus - Jesus is the King of Kings, and is exalted high above all. It is to Him that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess (Philippians 2:8-11). He has all authority and power over heaven and earth (Matthew 28:17, Revelation 22:13) and dominion over the nations - people from every tribe, tongue, and nation (Revelation 7:9). His feast will go on forever (Revelation 19:9; 7:16). His love is sacrificial and perfect (Ephesians 5:25; 1 John 4:18). His decrees will never fade away (Isaiah 40:7; Matthew 5:18). He is the true King of heroes, who takes the lowly ones of this world to confound the exalted ones (1 Corinthians 1:27-28; Matthew 5:5).

## Questions for Application

1. What is the background of this story? (1:1-3)
2. Who attended the king's banquet? (1:3-5)
3. What events preceded the banquet that the king gave? (1:4)
4. How is the setting of the banquet described? (1:5-8)
5. What motivated the king to summon the queen on the seventh day of the banquet? (1:10)
6. Why did the king want Queen Vashti to leave her own banquet to come to his? (1:11)
7. How did Queen Vashti respond to the king's command? (1:12)
8. How did King Xerxes react to Vashti's disobedience? (1:12)
9. Whom did the king consult about what to do about the queen's disobedience? (1:13-14)
10. What advice did the wise men give to King Xerxes? (1:16-20)
11. What fear did the wise men have about the ramifications of Queen Vashti's behavior? (1:17-18)
12. What impact did the wise men want the king's decree to have in the kingdom? (1:19-20)
13. What did the king decide to do about Queen Vashti? (1:21-22)
14. How did Vashti's actions affect all the women in the kingdom? (1:22)
15. Why do you think Queen Vashti refused to obey the king's command?
16. Why was it so important to the king that he punish the queen for her disobedience?
17. When have your actions had greater ramifications than you originally expected?
18. When have you ever stood up for what you believed was right, despite the dire consequences?
19. What are some consequences you have experienced for standing up for what was right?
20. How would you describe the feast given by Ahasuerus? What does this extravagant affair say about him—his character, his rule, his values?
21. Why did Vashti refuse to comply with the king's wishes? Who was right? Why?
22. What was the king's motive for deposing Vashti?
23. What does this passage say about God's sovereignty— that is, His control of both personal affairs and international situations?