

Meet Julie

FAMOUS QUOTES:

- You won't believe what I said/did this time
- Could you please say that again, only louder?
- I have the BEST grandchildren

LOVES Jesus, Larry, family, friends, the Word of God, and laughing

ENJOYS Bible Study, games, family time, mysteries, Diet Coke, and chocolate!

DISLIKES snakes, rodents, bad manners, spicy foods and sinning

HATES the devil and all of his evil plans, even against children, to kill, steal, and destroy

TAKEAWAY:

God loves the unlovely, values the valueless and blesses abundantly

JULIE: means soft-haired, Youthful

CALIFORNIA GIRL:

Raised in Southern California. Lived in a big house with my mother, stepfather, 3 older brothers, 1 younger sister, my cousin, 2 step-sisters, and my grandmother!

Moved to Northern California after I was married.

Until I began a relationship with God, I was confused about life, insecure, intimidated, fearful, and I was quite the sinner. After I started a relationship with Him, I felt as if everything made sense. I felt purpose, I hungered for the Word, and prayed unceasingly.

All fear was gone

and I was made a new creation. In Him, I feel

beautiful, loved, chosen, secure, forgiven, and free.

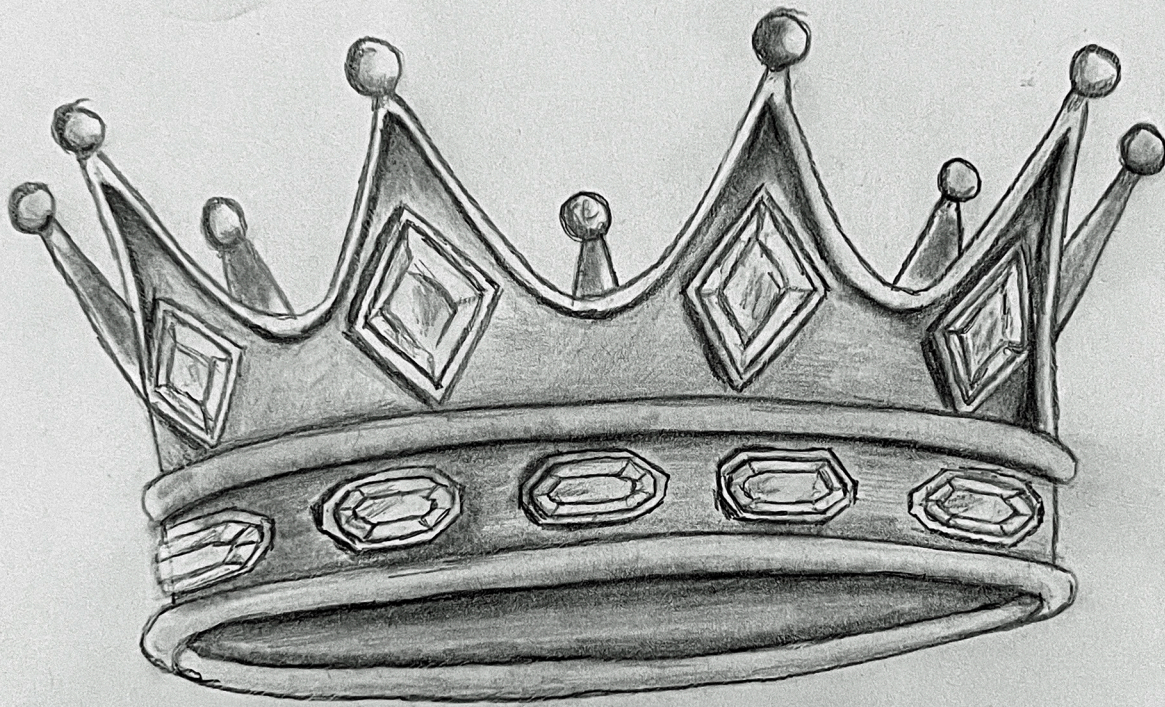
**Married
1-20-1979**

- **6 daughters**
- **6 sons-in-law**
- **18 grandbabies**

STARTED WALKING WITH JESUS: 11/23/1977

My boss told me about the power of God in his life. That made me open to go to church when a friend later invited me. We went to Calvary Chapel of Downey where they told me about Jesus. I quickly accepted His offer of forgiveness and new life and I have never looked back.

Meet King Ahasuerus and the Seven Princes



“Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus (this was the Ahasuerus who reigned over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, from India to Ethiopia).”

Esther 1:1

KING AHASUERUS AND THE SEVEN PRINCES

When I first read about King Ahasuerus in the Bible, I couldn't help but think of the stereotype of a "college frat boy." Like a college frat boy, Ahasuerus got his power, wealth, and empire from his daddy, not from his own work. He loved parties (especially, it seems, with lots of drinking), women (not in a healthy way), and sports (his sport was war, and his arch-rival was Greece).

HISTORY:

King Ahasuerus was a powerful Persian king who reigned from 486 BC-465 BC. He is approximately 35 years old when the Book of Esther begins. He also goes by the name Xerxes I, and his name means "ruler over heroes," "hero among men," or "king of all males." His name is also mentioned in the books of Daniel and Ezra. The book of Esther covers roughly ten years of his life.

1. In Esther 1:1, how large was the king's empire?

2. In verse 2, where did he live?

Historians tell us that King Darius I built this palace. It was the residence of both King Darius and then his son, King Ahasuerus. In Esther 1:6-7, we read about some of the luxurious beauty found within its walls. Susa (also known as Shushan) was in modern-day Iran and was a significant location in the Persian Empire during Ahasuerus's reign. This was during the Persian Wars between Persia and Greece.

FEASTS AND FASTS:

3. Read Esther 1:3-4. Who was this party for? How long did it last?

4. What was the king showing during this feast?

5. After the six-month party, the king had another feast (v. 5). How long did this feast last, and who was invited?

6. Here comes the drinking! Verse 7: "*And they served drinks in golden vessels, each vessel being different from the other, with royal _____ in _____, according to the _____ of the king.*"

7. Look at Esther 1:10. How does the Bible describe the king on the last day of the feast?

Our next banquet comes after Esther is chosen as queen. See Esther 2:17,18.

8. What was the name of the feast? Who was invited? What did the king proclaim? And finally, what did the king do?

We break off from all of the feasts to learn of a different kind of event. Read Esther 3:13,15; 4:1-3.

9. What was the cause of anguish amongst the Jews? (v. 13)

10. How did the citizens of Shushan feel? (v. 15)

11. Esther 4:3 “*And in every province where the king’s command and decree arrived, there was great _____ among the Jews, with _____, _____, and _____; and many lay in _____ and _____.*”

12. What were the king and Haman doing while the people were so distressed? See Esther 3:15.

Now Esther throws two parties of her own. Read Esther 5:4-8 and 7:1-8.

13. In Esther 5:6 and 7:7, all of the drama comes after what the Bible calls “*the banquet of _____.*”

WOMEN AND WIVES:

The two wives of King Ahasuerus are listed as Queen Vashti and Queen Esther. After the ruin of Queen Vashti, the king’s servants suggest a beauty contest to select the next queen.

14. Read Esther 2:2-4. What were the only qualifications of the next queen of all of Persia? (v. 2)

15. Where were the appointed officers to look for such women?

Reminder: That’s 127 provinces multiplied by the number of beautiful, young virgins per province. After Esther is chosen as queen, King Ahasuerus is at it again.

16. Read Esther 2:19. What is happening a second time?

THE KING’S ADVISORS AND HIS EMOTIONAL DECISIONS:

Read Esther 1:12-22.

17. What was the emotion of the king when Vashti refused to come as called? (v. 12)

18. Who did the king turn to for advice about his wife? (v. 13)

19. What was the final advice? (v. 22) “*That each man should be _____ in his _____*”

20. Food for thought: Was Ahasuerus master in his own house?

Read Esther 2:1-2.

21. How were the king’s emotions described here? Who did he turn to for advice?

Read Esther 3:8-11.

22. Who advised the king this time?

23. The Bible doesn’t say, but how would you describe the king’s emotions toward the people Haman was describing?

24. What did the king give to Haman? (v 10)

The king’s signet ring was a symbol of power and authority. It was the only thing that could be used to authenticate official documents. Anything sealed with the king’s signet ring could never be revoked.

Read Esther 8:1-2, 9.

25. Who is advising the king now, who also received the signet ring?

APPLICATION FOR OUR LIVES:

26. We all want to have good character. The best way to accomplish that is by walking in the Spirit. (See Galatians 5:16, 22, 23). What are some of the “fruits” you have experienced this week?

27. The Jews in Esther all fasted when they heard about their death sentence. In the New Testament, Jesus implies that we all should be fasting (“...*when you fast...*” Matthew 6:17). What are some reasons one might fast? Explain how you fast and what it has meant in your life.

28. Deuteronomy 17:17 clearly states that kings are not to multiply wives. Many cultures have allowed this practice, though, so many kings have fallen into this trap. Can you think of anything the Lord says “no” to, but our culture says “yes”? List some of them here. Do you obey culture or God? Acts 5:29: “*But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: We ought to obey God rather than men.*”

29. James 1:5 says, “*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*” King Ahasuerus went to all sorts of people for advice, but we never hear of him asking God for advice. Who or where do you go to first for advice? Do you have someone godly and trustworthy in your life who also gives you good advice?

30. I think that, like Ahasuerus, we have all made an emotional decision or two in our lives. How does knowing God and seeking Him first help you make sound decisions?

31. If someone asks you for advice, what do you do?

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:2-4).