

THE BOOK OF ESTHER – LESSON ONE

I. QUEEN VASHTI DEPOSED (1:1-22).

- A. The royal feast at Shushan – promoting the glorious kingdom (v. 1-9)
 - 1. For the nobles and princes of the provinces – feasting for 180 days
 - 2. Another feast for great and small – seven days
 - 3. Beautiful tapestry accompanied with drinking according to one’s pleasure.

- B. Divorce of Vashti (v. 10-22)
 - 1. Vashti refuses the King’s summons to come before him – to flaunt her beauty before the king and princes of the land – the King made merry with wine.
 - 2. Memucan, one of the King’s wise men, reflects on Vashti’s refusal to the King in terms of what influence it will have among all the women – *“make their husbands contemptible in their eyes”* (v. 16-17).
 - 3. Royal decree encouraged to not allow Vashti to ever come before the King and give her royal estate to another.
 - 4. Decree established and published throughout the kingdom

QUESTIONS:

- 1. How extensive was the Kingdom of Persia under the rule of Ahasuerus?

- 2. Why do you think the author has to explain ... “this is Ahasuerus...”

- 3. Where was the king’s palace located?

- 4. Was the feast one continuous six-month feast – 180 days?

- 5. Describe what you might have seen at the feast where DRINKING was *“according to the law – none could compel”*?

- 6. Was Queen Vashti’s refusal of her king-husband justified? Explain your answer.

