

## Esther 1:9-22

### A Tale of Two Kings

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), 2 in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the citadel, 3 that in the third year of his reign he made a feast for all his officials and servants—the powers of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the princes of the provinces being before him—4 when he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the splendor of his excellent majesty for many days, one hundred and eighty days in all.

**We noted last week that the King of Persia Ahasuerus who would have been a billionaire in today's standards –**

A)threw a party that lasted 6 months – 6 month party – all the leaders and the important of the 127 provinces he governed

B)Warren Wiersbe insight - The king probably didn't assemble all his provincial leaders at one time;

C)Make them vulnerable for attack

1)Plus they couldn't neglect their duties for a whole six month

**C)So It's more likely that, over a period of six months, the king brought the officers to Shushan on a rotating schedule. { Still a large group**

**Now Imagine life for King for 6 months waking up every day, what is on the agenda for today? –**

**A)Party!!!!!!!**

B)And - What do you do when 180 straight days of partying is over ? You throw another party

5 And when these days were completed, the king made a feast lasting seven days for all the people who were present in Shushan the citadel, from great to small, in the court of the garden of the king's palace.

**So he brings everyone together for a weeklong party – final Bash**

A)Noted the Purpose of all of this was twofold –  
#1 Show off his greatness –

#2 gain support for a military invasion of Greece

**B)Historian Herodotus lets us in on that detail**

According to Herodotus, the king's words were these: "My intent is to throw a bridge over the Hellespont (**ancient** name of the narrow passage between the Aegean Sea and the Sea of Marmara) and march an army through Europe against Greece, that thereby I may obtain vengeance from the Athenians for the wrongs committed by them against the Persians and against my father."

**C)Herodotus claims that Ahasuerus goal was to invade all of Europe and "reduce the whole earth into one empire."**

**9 Queen Vashti also made a feast for the women in the royal palace which belonged to King Ahasuerus**

A)Women were not allowed in the party of the men – only women of ill repute

B) So while the King was selling a war; His queen Vashti entertained the wives and women at another banquet.

C)Now The Kingdom of Persia was the epitome of worldliness in all of its glory

D)To Everyone at the party –the message would be: this is what you are striving to be – this is the end all

1)this is kind of power you want – the kind prominence and wealth you want to aspire to.

**We are Living in two worlds**

A)As believers in Jesus Christ — living in the midst of two kingdoms

B)The Kingdom of this world and the Kingdom of Jesus

C)This chapter gives us some insight into how the Kingdom of this world operates

1)and what is it's agenda

**D)Insight into 3 things that are a part of the Agenda of the Kingdom of this world**

**#1 The Kingdom of this world wants to feed our fleshly appetites**

A)Six months of an all-out party is followed by a seven day party

B)So Picture this scene: A extravagant party, open bar, all you can eat, all you can drink.

1) No expenses spared

C)This Coachella times 10 / this is Woodstock times 100

D)This is a party of a bunch of males –

1)The only women at this party are women of ill repute – exotic dancers and prostitutes –

**10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine,**

E)So you have 1,000's of drunken men – the King is drunk himself

**The Bible says that Satan or the Devil is the god of this world's Kingdom**

A)He is smart – he doesn't appeal to things that your flesh hates – **All the dog food you can eat – all the sour milk ... drink**

B)He appeals to what your flesh loves – he wants us to over indulge in so that we will become enslaved!

**C)He will give you whatever you want as long as he gets to be your king**

1)and as long as you serve his kingdom. **Sex? Fine.** The king of Persia gave it, Satan will too.

D)Overconsumption in Alcohol ? Absolutely. The king of Persia gave it, Satan will too?

E)Gluttony ? Sure - The king of Persia gave it, Satan will too.?

1)Whatever you want as long as it gets you on my team.

F)That was the plan of the King of Persia and that is the Devil's Plan too

**But Persia is lying to us. The Kingdom of this world is lying to us!**

A)Consider that Most of the advertisements that promotes the sale of alcoholic beverages depict fashionable people in great shape –

B)**In beautiful settings,** giving us the subtle impression that “social drinking” and **success are synonymous.**

**C)Have A few drinks to take the edge off the day. What could be wrong with that ?**

1)According to the marketing machine behind the liquor industry, the answer would be “Nothing at all.” “

**D)So Miller beer says – Enjoy the high life - Corona Extra beckons “Find your beach,”**

1) Jose Cuervo tequila **invites you to enjoy “A shot of adventure”**

E)and Jameson Whiskey calls it **“The happiest hour on earth,”**

**But here is what the slick advertisements don't tell you.**

A)Alcohol abuse in this country is one of the leading causes of health problems

B)55% of Domestic abuse calls are Alcohol related

1)Many marriages have been shattered and careers ruined by Alcohol abuse.

C)But they don't tell you that – No they send a message – **Life is about living for the weekend – party hardy – TGIF –**

1)But who needs to wait for the weekend – It is 5 O'clock somewhere right?

**Here is another lie: Pornography is a harmless expression of sexuality.**

A)Really? It is as addictive as drugs and alcohol.

B)It changes the makeup of a persons brain. –

1)It can make a person incapable of having a normal relationship

**C)The Porn industry which is a multi billion dollar industry that is supported by sex trafficking**

D)It destroys families and marriages

**The kingdom of this world is proclaiming this message –**

A)Live to please yourself – do what makes you happy,- Find and be your true self

B)Here is the result: IN the USA

- divorce filings are up 34 percent year to year.
- calls to mental health hotlines have increased 891 percent,

**C)The suicide rate is the highest it has been at any time since World War II.**

- One in four people ages 18-24 have seriously considered suicide in the last thirty days

**D)That is what happens in a society where people are living to indulge their flesh**

Satan who is the god of this world's system **is a thief and a robber who comes to kill, to rob, and to destroy.** John 10:10

Jesus says **I have come that you might have life and that more abundantly** John 10:10

**So The first thing we learn about this king and his kingdom is that he seeks to feed our fleshly appetites**

**#2 The Kingdom of this world wants to objectify women –**

**10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus,**

**4 of these guys sound like Rappers Biztha, - Bizzie – Bigtha- Biggie Abagtha – Carcas**

**The King commanded the eunuchs 11 to bring Queen Vashti before the king, wearing her royal crown, in order to show her beauty to the people and the officials, for she was beautiful to behold.**

**So The King commanded that Vashti be brought to the banquet wearing her crown.**

**A)There is a debate concerning the phrase she was to be brought wearing her crown**

**B)Some think the king was asking Vashti to come in wearing her crown with her face uncovered –**  
1)which in that Persian culture where head coverings were mandatory -would have been scandalous

**C)Others think he was asking her to come wearing only her crown which would have been even more scandalous**

1)Absolutely degrading

**Point was the King had shown them the wealth and beauty of his kingdom but now He wanted everyone to see Vashti, his crown jewel.**

**A)The world seeks to objectify women!**

**B)In Advertising pretty and often scantily dressed women are used to sell anything from cars to food.**

**C)Even though we have seen the rise of the Me-too-movement in recent years**

1) many of the same actresses who have spoken up about abuses continue to star in movies that objectify women and promote the sexualization of women

**D)It is not just on the big screen it is coming right into are homes through streaming**

- 73 Million subscribers to Netflix
- 66 Million to Prime video
- 240 million on YouTube

**All three of these platforms – readily promote soft core Porn**

**A)Some of the Most popular movies and TV shows in America today are riddled with that kind of content**

**B)It is being brought right into US homes – right into the bedrooms through tablets, phones, and computers of People across this nation**

**C)Common Sense Media reports that American teens spend on average more than 4 1/2 hours per day on screens**

1)Teenagers spend a stunning nine hours per day

**D)"It is no surprise that the average age of first exposure to internet porn is 11 yrs old."**

**The World wants to objectify women – Jesus came to liberate women**

**A)In a world that treated women as second class citizens – Jesus gave women a voice.**

**B)The first person whom he revealed himself to as the Messiah was a women**

1)The first person to see him Risen was Mary Mag- Go tell

**C)Jesus took a stand for women -**

D) Paul the apostle would write these words in Galatians 3<sup>28</sup> *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are **all one in Christ Jesus**.* Galatians 3:28

E) Back to the story:

**So the king called for the Queen to come and be paraded before all of these men V.12**

**12 But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command brought by his eunuchs; therefore the king was furious, and his anger burned within him.**

A) Queen Vashti – shows she is not going to be degraded in this way! **GOOD FOR HER**

B) But understand As we shall see it was a dangerous thing to defy the King

**I cannot help but admire her response.**

A) She sacrificed all the glamour and all the wealth and all the stuff, for the sake of personal dignity.

B) She would not be a sexual pawn, to be shown off as a piece of property, to be leered at by drunken men.

C) She was willing to sacrifice her crown, **for the sake of her character.**

D) But How many women in America last night were in a bar somewhere – **Sacrificing their character for some the attention of men?**

**Ladies, What is your Character worth?**

A) How far are you willing to go in order to win praise and attention? **Be liked by someone?**

B) Are you sacrificing your character on the altar of acceptance?

**C) Listen if your boyfriend wants you to underdress, for him – send naked pics to him...dump him. –Now!**

D) If he is trying to get you to have sex with you or engage in sexual immorality – **Dump him right now!**

**Christian young men here –**

A) Get this in your brain – That girl that you are wanting to mess around with – **is God's daughter.**

B) Girls That guy is God's Son

**And Married ladies understand this: Submission is not a tool meant to manipulate you.**

A) In my years of counseling couples – I have heard some pretty crazy things – **guys want their wives to do – Submission card**

B) Many that are too sordid to name in this setting **Don't want parents mad at me**

C) But Guys love to use the Submission card – quote Ephesians 5:22 – **Wives submit.....**

1) Total ignoring of the context – V.21 Two people submitted to Jesus

D) Quote V.22 Forget – Colossians 3:18<sup>18</sup> **Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.**

**E) As is fitting in the Lord – means -that which goes along with what the Bible says – the heart of God**

**I think Dr. Tony Evans definition for submission is fitting for this chapter...“Submission is knowing when to duck, so God can hit your husband.”**

A) Submission does not include submitting to things that are degrading /or humiliating or endangering.

B) If your husband's asking you to disobey the Lord, 1)listen your husband ladies is not the highest authority.

C) This is the good news of Christianity. **Above the king is the King of kings.**

1) Above your husband ladies is the Lord of lords.

D) So, ladies, if your husband asks you to lie, to steal, to cover for him,

1) to participate with him in some sin, or evil, or injustice, or crime, **The answer is what? No.**

E) Husband wants you to watch porn – **NO**

➤ Husband wants you to engage weird things sexually – **no**

➤ Husband wants you to do something not comfortable with – **no**

- **Husband wants you to sin against your conscience – no**

**Back to our story – Queen Vashti – says No**

**Picture this scene:** The king said to his guests, “I have a real surprise for you. I want you to see my queen- in all of her beauty

A)The men start chanting – send in the queen..... queen – YEA!

B)In a few minutes one of the Eunuchs comes back and whispers in the king’s ear, “**She won’t come.**”

C) **NO DOUBT the King WAS EMBARRASSED!**

1)V.12 **Angry –He is furious** - his Pride was wounded

**He’d spent six months wining, dining, and flexing his muscles.**

A)Yet on the last night he was made to look wimp in front of his drinking buddies.

B)His whole plan of gaining their military support was in Jeopardy

C)Whispers - How can He command a whole army – if he can’t command his woman!

<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the **wise men who understood the times** (for this *was* the king’s manner toward all who knew law and justice, <sup>14</sup> those closest to him *being* Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who had access to the king’s presence, *and* who ranked highest in the kingdom)

A)So these are his **Top Advisers who understood the law and the times**

B)The King asked the question:

<sup>15</sup> “What *shall* we do to Queen Vashti, according to law, because she did not obey the command of King Ahasuerus *brought to her* by the eunuchs?”

<sup>16</sup> And Memucan answered before the king and the princes: “Queen Vashti has not only wronged the king, but also all the princes, and all the people who *are* in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. <sup>17</sup> For the queen’s behavior will become known to all women, so that they will despise their husbands in their eyes, when they report, ‘King Ahasuerus commanded

Queen Vashti to be brought in before him, but she did not come.’ <sup>18</sup> This very day the *noble* ladies of Persia and Media will say to all the king’s officials that they have heard of the behavior of the queen. Thus *there will be* excessive contempt and wrath.

C)Memucan says in affect - We have a crisis on our hands –

**1)**This is not just a problem for you – but this is a Problem for all the men in the Kingdom.

D)He is thinking – if the word gets out to the rest of the ladies in the Kingdom – **all the men would lose total control of their wives!**

**This could launch a women’s lib movement – Women’s equality movement – we can’t have that!**

A) Someone echoes “**Yeah, that’s right, man. My wife is already stubborn.**

B)Wait till she hears about this. There’ll be no controlling her then.”

**C)All of which leads Memucan to his ultimate solution:**

<sup>19</sup> If it pleases the king, let a royal decree go out from him, and let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it will not be altered, that Vashti shall come no more before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she. <sup>20</sup> When the king’s decree which he will make is proclaimed throughout all his empire (for it is great), all wives will honor their husbands, both great and small.”

<sup>21</sup> And the reply pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of Memucan.

<sup>22</sup> Then he sent letters to all the king’s provinces, to each province in its own script, and to every people in their own language, that each man should be master in his own house, and speak in the language of his own people.

**#3 The Kingdom of this world wants to control people.**

A)Here it is women – they need to be put into their place!

B)Tonight – The agenda of Socialism – same – put people in their place

C) Socialism, Totalitarianism sounds good on paper and in Theory – but the problem is –

1) People are sinners –

**D) And when Sinful people Run things – they ruin things**

**It doesn't matter who is in power whether they assume the throne or they're elected into office.**

A) When fallen, faulty, flawed sinners are in charge, you never get a glorious kingdom.

B) You get a Flawed Kingdom like this one that feeds flesh,

1) objectifies..... wants to control everyone.

C) Guys that is what I said before – Satan is seeking to control – he wants to put people into bondage

1) He wants to beat people down – He will offer them the world – to lure them in but he is a tyrant – ruin lives

**That is why when we take the time to stop and consider our society- it**

A) It Leaves us longing & thinking “There has to be a better kingdom.

B) There has to be a better king.”

C) And There is! His name is Jesus – Best King – He truly has our best interest at heart

**Close today - The Contrast in Kings**

A) **King Ahasuerus** sat on his throne, feeding sin, But **King Jesus** got off his throne **to forgive sin.**

B) Gospel: Cross – Paid the price

**King Ahasuerus** appealed to our depraved nature, **King Jesus** comes to give us a new nature. Amen?

A) In Jesus you are a new creation – old things have passed away!

B) **King Ahasuerus** words are no longer read and obeyed, **but King Jesus'** words will forever be read and obeyed.

1) King of kings and Lord of Lords

C) **King Ahasuerus** gave people what they wanted, **King Jesus** gives people what they need.

1) Salvation – freedom from bondage -

**King Ahasuerus** banished his people from his presence, **King Jesus** never banishes any of his people from his presence.

A) **King Ahasuerus** wanted to parade his wife degradingly before the People

B) **King Jesus**, when he comes back at the end of time, will parade his wife the church - spotless, pure, glorious

C) **King Ahasuerus** no longer sits upon a throne, but **King Jesus** sits high and exalted, risen from death, ascended into glory, forever upon his throne.

D) **King Ahasuerus** died and his people died, **King Jesus** rose and his people will rise to be with him forever.

**E) And King Ahasuerus' kingdom has come to an end, but King Jesus' kingdom never comes to an end.**

F) Who is your King – who are you living for? – Pray