

[Honour]

Esther 1:4 – 2:3

+++ . +++

~ Our Spiritual Safari concluded our previous report with Xerxes in his castle on the eve of a godless, pagan party he began hosting. His little get-together will ultimately continue for a full six months! Hollywood has no idea how to party, apparently. All of the governors, rulers, officials and other leaders from one hundred twenty-seven provinces have been summoned to this seemingly never-ending party so the king can sell them on the idea of going to war against Greece.

I don't believe the people, overall, were enthusiastic about the proposed campaign; so, naturally, the king shows them the money — and they all react compliantly. Even with all the wealth this king had, I don't think he was quite prepared to pay the price tag for this war; in fact, I know he wasn't. So many people today have claimed to have found profound spiritual lessons here in Esther; quite frankly, I don't see any — so, let's just read the account properly, correctly and completely and consider it at face value. Then, the Holy Spirit might take this competent, sincere, and educated teaching and make it real to our understanding. We are now in the middle of a scandal ridden, fraudulent, and completely pagan heathen court in ancient historical times — and it appears as if God has not been invited to this party at all — because He hasn't. Even so, God is overruling and intervening in the affairs of all men to accomplish His Own purpose for His own people....

|

***<sup>4</sup> When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days.***

***<sup>5</sup> And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;***

**<sup>6</sup> Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.**

**<sup>7</sup> And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king.**

~ Gaudy luxury baptized by art, pictures of obscenity, filthy pomp and opulent, arrogant circumstance is what we have communicated here. It was a royal feast for the senses, but the king is selling the people on war with a false pretense of wealth. So, it's pretty easy reading through here in Esther as Vashti makes a banquet for the women – which was the right thing to do – and she refuses to parade around for these perverts – which was also the right thing to refuse to do. Notice verse ten; we have one very drunk king – and he is doing things he *never* would have dreamed of doing if he had been sober. This drunken command to Vashti is positively crude, and it leads to nationwide scandal....

**<sup>8</sup> And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.**

**<sup>9</sup> Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus.**

**<sup>10</sup> On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,**

**<sup>11</sup> To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.**

***12 But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.***

***13 Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:***

***14 And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom;)***

***15 What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?***

***16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.***

***17 For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.***

***18 Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.***

***19 If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.***

***20 And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.***

***21 And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan:***

***22 For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.***

~ So, the drunken plan to show off the trophy wife, Vashti, completely backfires on Xerxes — and the king devolves into a drunken rage. This entire incident is embarrassing; but it has also become serious. Xerxes can't just move on now and have some side entertainment at the banquet while acting as if nothing had happened; because these people knew what happened. What's a king going to do about this insolent treason? Typically, women were treated like chattel — but not this one; this is the queen. There is, apparently, no law against her refusing to obey the king — so they're going to need a new law real fast now. Memucan is deeply disturbed by all of this — and it doesn't look like he will even go home until the king resolves insubordination by females. Of course, it was resolved, and Vashti was removed from being queen. I've always wondered what the implications of that were. Perhaps we'll never know....

||

***1 After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.***

***2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:***

***3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them:***

~ So, our Spiritual Safari concludes this leg of our expedition with the preparations being made for a beauty contest. "*After these things*" in verse one includes the fact that the campaign against Greece had been carried out, and had gone horribly bad for Xerxes. Now, years later, he looks back on what happened with Vashti in his drunken stupor that night — and thinks about how he can never have her again. Devastating loneliness and defeat on all levels follow him around his palace. This man is moody, dangerous, and next he will have a mental aberration. Either way, he's thinking of Vashti tonight. It's a lonely picture in ANY book that doesn't include God, friends ~

+++ . +++