A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER

BY

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WALTON COUNTY FLORIDA, 32459
PEOPLE TO REMEMBER

KING CYRUS - EZRA 1:1 (536 BC)?
KING DARIUS: EZRA 1-6 (538-516 BC)?

ESTHER QUEEN OF PERSIA (58 YEARS) (478 BC)?

ARTAXERXES: EZRA 7-10 (458-457 BC)?
ARTAXERXES LONGIMANUS: (465-424 BC)?

ZERUBBABEL - SHESHBAZZAR - LEVITE GOVERNOR OF JUDAH HAGGAI 1:1 (536 BC)?

LEVITES WHO CAME WITH ZERUBBABEL

NEHEMIAH - PRIEST EZRA 2:2 (536 BC)?
JEREMIAH - PRIEST NEHEMIAH 12:1 (536 BC)?
JESHUA - HIGH PRIEST NEHEMIAH 12:1 (536 BC)?
EZRA - PRIEST NEHEMIAH 12:1 (536 BC)?
# PEOPLE TO REMEMBER

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nebuchadnezzar</td>
<td>King of Babylon (498 BC)</td>
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<td>Jeconiah</td>
<td>King of Judah (498 BC)</td>
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<td>Ahaseurus</td>
<td>King of Persia (483 BC)</td>
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<td>Vashti</td>
<td>Ahaseurus’ ex-wife</td>
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<td>Mordecai</td>
<td>Great-grandson of Kish - a Benjamite (a eunuch)</td>
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<td>Hegai</td>
<td>Eunuch in charge of King’s harem</td>
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<td>Esther</td>
<td>First cousin of Mordecai</td>
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<td>Bigthan &amp; Teresh</td>
<td>King’s doorkeepers</td>
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<td>Keeper of the King’s concubines</td>
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PEOPLE TO REMEMBER

AHASUERUS: KING OF PERSIA 478 BC?

VASHTI: AHASUERUS’ FIRST WIFE

MORDECAI: (A EUNUCH)?
  GREAT-GRANDSON OF KISH - A BENJAMITE

ESTHER: FIRST COUSIN OF MORDECAI

HEGAI: EUNUCH IN CHARGE OF KING’S HAREM

BIGTHAN AND TERESH: KING’S DOORKEEPERS (EUNUCHS)

HAMAN: THE AGGAGITE - DESCEDENT OF KING AGAG

HATHACH: EUNUCH THAT ESTHER SENT TO SEE MORDECAI
OUTLINE ESTHER CHAPTER ONE

KING INVITES ROYAL GUESTS TO SHUSHAN: V.1-4
HE INVITES THEM AGAIN TO A ROYAL FEAST: V. 5-8
QUEEN VASHTI HAS A FEAST FOR THE WOMEN: V. 9
KING INVITES ALL THE WOMEN TO HIS FEAST: V.10-11
VASHTI REFUSES TO COME: V. 12
AHASUERUS IS ANGRY ABOUT HER REFUSAL: V. 13-18
VASHTI IS SHUNNED BY THE KING: V. 19
ALL WIVES ARE TO HONOR THEIR HUSBANDS: V. 20-22
1 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.
QUESTIONS: ESTHER 1:1-4

1 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),

WHO WAS THIS AHASUERUS?
IS THIS DARIUS HYSTASPIS (483 BC)?

READ: DANIEL 6:1-2

1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; (KJV)

127 PROVINCES? - 120 PRINCES?
QUESTIONS: ESTHER 1:1-4

IS THIS DARIUS HYSTASPIS (483 BC)?

READ: HAGGAI 1:1-2
1 In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying,
2 "Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: 'This people says, "The time has not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built."'" (NKJ)

READ: ZECHARIAH 1:1-2
1 In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying,
2 "The LORD has been very angry with your fathers." (NKJ)
QUESTIONS: ESTHER 1:1-4

2 In those days when King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the citadel,

WHERE WAS THE KING?

WHERE WAS SHUSHAN?

READ: DANIEL 8:1-2

1 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me-- to me, Daniel-- after the one that appeared to me the first time.

2 I saw in the vision, and it so happened while I was looking, that I was in Shushan, the citadel, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision that I was by the River Ulai. (NKJ)
QUESTIONS: ESTHER 1:1-4

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--

WHEN DID THE KING MAKE THIS FEAST (483 BC)?
WHO DID HE INVITE?

WAS THIS SIMILAR TO BELSHAZZAR’S FEAST?
READ: DANIEL 5:1

1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand. (NKJ)
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.

WHAT DID HE MAKE KNOWN TO THEM?
HOW LONG DID THIS FEAST CONTINUE?
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.

6 There were white and blue linen curtains fastened with cords of fine linen and purple on silver rods and marble pillars; and the couches were of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of alabaster, turquoise, and white and black marble.
7 And they served drinks in golden vessels, each vessel being different from the other, with royal wine in abundance, according to the generosity of the king.

8 In accordance with the law, the drinking was not compulsory; for so the king had ordered all the officers of his household, that they should do according to each man's pleasure.
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.

AFTER THESE DAYS WHAT DID HE DO?
HOW LONG WAS THIS FEAST?
WHO DID THE KING INVITE TO THIS FEAST?
WHERE WAS THIS FEAST?
WHY IN THE GARDEN?
6 There were white and blue linen curtains fastened with cords of fine linen and purple on silver rods and marble pillars; and the couches were of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of alabaster, turquoise, and white and black marble.

HOW WAS THE GARDEN DECORATED?
WERE THE COUCHES MADE OF 'GOLD AND SILVER?
WERE THE DECORATED WITH GOLD AND SILVER?
WHAT WAS THE PAVEMENT LIKE?
7 And they served drinks in golden vessels, each vessel being different from the other, with royal wine in abundance, according to the generosity of the king.

HOW DID THEY SERVE THE DRINKS?  
WHAT DID THEY DRINK?
8 In accordance with the law, the drinking was not compulsory; for so the king had ordered all the officers of his household, that they should do according to each man's pleasure.

WERE ANY COMPELLED TO DRINK?  ACCORDING TO WHAT LAW?  READ: HABAKKUK 2:15-16

15 "Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, pressing him to your bottle, even to make him drunk, that you may look on his nakedness!

16 You are filled with shame instead of glory. You also--drink! And be exposed as uncircumcised! The cup of the LORD'S right hand will be turned against you, and utter shame will be on your glory. (NKJ)
9 Queen Vashti also made a feast for the women in the royal palace which belonged to King Ahasuerus.

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,

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

WHO WAS VASHTI?
VASHTI MEANS ‘BEAUTIFUL WOMAN’
WHAT DID VASHTI DO? WHY?
WHO ATTENDED THIS FEAST?
WHERE WAS IT HELD?
QUESTIONS: ESTHER 1:9-11

WHO ATTENDED BELSAZZAR’S FEAST?

WHO DRANK WITH THE KING AND HIS LORDS?

READ: DANIEL 5:2

2 While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which had been in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. (NKJ)

WAS THIS CUSTOMARY?
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,

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.

WHY WAS THE KING’S HEART ‘MERRY’?
WHAT DID HE COMMAND THE EUNUCHS TO DO?
WHY WOULD THE KING DO THIS?
WHAT DOES ‘VASHTI’ MEAN? ‘BEAUTIFUL’?
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.

13 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,
14 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):

15 "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?"
QUESTIONS:  ESTHER 1:12-15

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.

WHO WAS QUEEN VASHTI?
HOW DID VASHTI RESPOND TO THE KING?
WHY DID SHE REFUSE?
HOW DID THE KING RESPOND TO HER ‘REFUSAL’?
QUESTIONS: ESTHER 1:12-15

13 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,

14 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):

WHO DID THE KING CONSULT?
WHO WERE THOSE ‘CLOSEST TO HIM’?
QUESTIONS: ESTHER 1:12-15

15 "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?"

WHAT DID HE ASK THEM?
WHY ‘ACCORDING TO LAW’?
WHAT LAW DID SHE NOT OBEY?
16 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.

17 "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.'

18 "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.
QUESTIONS: ESTHER 1:16-18

16 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.

WHAT DID MEMUCAN SAY TO THE KING?
WHO DID QUEEN VASHTI WRONG?
DID SHE WRONG THE PRINCES AND THE PEOPLE?
HOW?
17 "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.'

WHAT WILL BE MADE KNOWN TO ALL WOMEN?
WHAT WILL ALL THE WOMEN DO?
WHAT WILL THEY SAY?
18 "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.

WHAT WILL ALL THE NOBLE LADIES SAY?
WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT OF VASHTI’S REFUSAL?
19 "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.

20 "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."
QUESTIONS: ESTHER 1:19-20

19  "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.

WHAT DID HE SUGGEST TO THE KING?
WHY A ROYAL DECREE?
WHY HAVE IT RECORDED IN THE LAW?
WHAT WOULD BE VASHTI’S PUNISHMENT?
WRITING OF DIVORCEMENT? OR BANISHMENT?
QUESTIONS: ESTHER 1:19-20

20 "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."

WHERE WOULD THIS DECREE BE PROCLAIMED?
WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT OF THIS DECREE?
WOULD THIS APPLY TO ‘ALL WIVES’?
21 And the reply pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of Memucan.

22 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. (NKJ)
QUESTIONS: ESTHER 1:21-22

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

WHO WAS PLEASED WITH THIS SUGGESTION?
WHAT DID THE KING DO?
QUESTIONS: ESTHER 1:21-22

22 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. (NKJ)

WHERE DID THE KING SEND THESE LETTERS?
HOW WERE THEY WRITTEN?
WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT OF THESE LETTERS?
QUESTIONS: ESTHER 1:21-22

DID VASHTI DO ANYTHING WRONG?

IS THERE AN APPLICATION TODAY?

READ: EPHESIANS 5:33

33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (NKJ)

READ: 1 PETER 3:1-2

1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,

2 When they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. (NKJ)