

## **GOD'S PREPARATION FOR ESTHER'S RISE**

(Esther 1:1-22)

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **II. THE KING'S ROYAL BANQUETS AND THE QUEEN'S DISMISSAL (1:1-22)**

#### **A. Some BACKGROUND to the SETTING of the story**

1. The king is known here in the pages of Esther by a \_\_\_\_\_ name Ahasuerus; but he is better known to \_\_\_\_\_ history as Xerxes (486-465 BC).
2. Xerxes was notorious in being a tyrannical king who had a \_\_\_\_\_ and exercised his power in a \_\_\_\_\_ manner; he also had grandiose ambitions along with abandoned sensuality.
3. Not long after the opening of our story, Xerxes would suffer three humiliating defeats by the Greeks; his \_\_\_\_\_ would sink and his \_\_\_\_\_ would be decimated (479 BC).

#### **B. The king held two TRIBUTE FEASTS (1:1-9)**

1. King Ahasuerus “\_\_\_\_\_” for battle against the Greeks by throwing an enormous banquet for \_\_\_\_\_ members from all the provinces of Persia. (vv. 1-3)
2. This tribute was to display his \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; the first feast lasted 6 months (180 days), while the second one only seven days. (vv. 4-5)
3. It seems obvious that in order for the author to describe things with such vivid \_\_\_\_\_ he must have been an \_\_\_\_\_ to these events. (vv. 6-9)

**C. Queen Vashti was SUMMONED and then DEMOTED (1:10-22)**

1. In the king's drunken stupor he sent eunuchs to bring the queen and have her \_\_\_\_\_ herself and show off her stunning beauty. (vv. 10-11)
2. The Bible does not condemn Vashti's decision to \_\_\_\_\_ listen to her drunken husband's demand to \_\_\_\_\_ her before his intoxicated guests. (v. 12)

\* Principle to Remember: (Acts 5:29)

3. In our culture it is difficult to imagine the complete and utter astonishment her \_\_\_\_\_ produced among the king and his guests; depending on his mood, his word could mean \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The king's advisers feared that Vashti's rebellion would lead to a popular \_\_\_\_\_ movement, and to a revolution among the aristocratic wives in particular. (vv. 16-18)
5. Ahasuerus' counselors advised him to publically \_\_\_\_\_ Queen Vashti in order to "save face," and so he did and issued a national decree. (vv. 19-22)

\* What can you personally learn from this chapter?