

The Persian Press

ALL THE NEWS FROM INDIA TO CUSH



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Teacher's Copy

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Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

The Persian Press

ESTHER 1:9-22

QUEEN VASHTI DEPOSED!

**HEAD-
LINES:**

- Queen Vashti refused to obey the king
- King Xerxes banished the queen from his presence
- God is working behind the scenes

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EXTRA, EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Not only has King Xerxes had two parties, the blowout that lasted six months and the week long party that everyone was invited to, but the queen gave a party as well.

While the king's second party was out in the garden, the queen's party took place in King Xerxes' royal palace and only women were invited.

By the seventh day, the last day of both their parties, King Xerxes had drunk far too much wine. King Xerxes was drunk and he did something very unwise. The king commanded seven of his officials to bring Queen Vashti to him. King Xerxes wanted to show her off to a bunch of drunken men! He

wanted to parade her around in her crown as if to say, "Not only am I rich, but look what else I have!"

In the middle of her own party, the king's officials entered and told Queen Vashti what the king was ordering her to do. But Queen Vashti refused!

Oh, the king's anger! He was furious! The queen had just disobeyed a direct command from her king. So, King Xerxes immediately called a meeting with his closest advisors.

When the meeting was dismissed the decision was this: Hear ye, hear ye! A decree from the king. Queen Vashti is banished from the king's presence, never to see his majesty again. Not only that, but someone else will be chosen in her

place. It is also announced that all other women of the kingdom are to have respect for their husbands, no matter who they are.

The decree (message) was sent out to all 127 provinces. It was sent out in the language and writing of each group of people.

I wonder who the next queen will be . . .

What a night!

Reporting from Susa: Fortress of the Persian Empire



Queen Vashti

P E R S I A N L A W

We have it straight from a source who was inside the rise of the Persian Empire - Daniel. He was taken captive by the Babylonians and lived through Babylonian and Persian Rule.

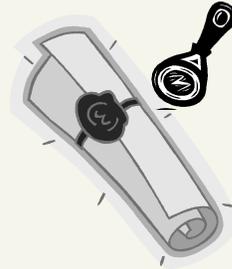
The Persians' Laws are unique. Daniel's insights give us an understanding of the events of today, i.e. the banish-

ment of Queen Vashti and the royal decree.

Persian laws are unchangeable. Once made, not even the king can rescind a law. (Daniel 6:8, 12)

Persian kings are absolute. (Esther 3:8) They rule and reign over their empire, calling into law whatever they see fit.

And this king is richer than all, leading him to do whatever he likes.



*The king's heart
is like channels
of water in the
hand of the
Lord; He turns
it wherever He
wishes.
Proverbs 21:1*

F R O M T H E E D I T O R

More talk of parties . . . but what can we learn from the disaster that became of the king and queen's parties?

"So don't be foolish. Instead, understand what the Lord wants. Don't fill yourself up with wine. Getting drunk will lead to wild living. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Ephesians 5:17-18 NIV) God wants us to make wise decisions, not

decisions that come from being under the influence of a substance. What seems like a good idea to the world is foolishness to God. (1Corinthians 3:19)

Then, where does wisdom come from? Proverbs 9:10 (NIV) says, "If you really want to become wise, you must begin by having respect for the Lord. To know the Holy One is to gain understanding."

Maybe you are thinking, "That's not me." And if you are, do you know Jesus? Do you follow Him? Do you have respect for Him? That begins when you give your life to Him in salvation.

Maybe you do know Jesus but you are not very wise. James 1:5 (NLT) says, "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."

B E H I N D T H E S C E N E S

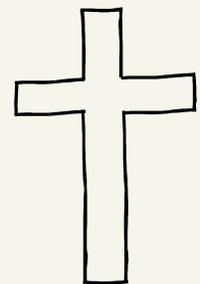
Something is going on behind the scenes here in Persia. This just doesn't happen; the queen has been banished!

You see, refusal to obey the king was risky, even for the queen, but this

queen was no ordinary woman. She was royalty before she married the great King Xerxes.

So, what is it? I've heard it said that the One True God is at work. You know, "The king's heart is like channels of water in the

hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes. (Proverbs 21:1) What is God about to do? Why would He need Queen Vashti out of the way? More information as events progress. . .



ACTIVITIES



Hide God's Word in your heart!
Psalm 119:11

Memory Verse Activities for Proverbs 21:1

Sing the memory verse to aid in memorization.

Deconstruct the memory verse, talking about each word or phrase and its meaning. Talk about running water, like rivers, and how they change course and cut through the land.

Provide coloring sheets that include the memory verse.



*"Stop and think
about the
wonderful things
God does."
Job 37:14*

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Read Ephesians 5:22-32. Discuss what a relationship between man and wife should be like. What is it a picture of? (Christ and the church.) Discuss the implications.

For older students and adults: There is the possibility that in ordering the queen to appear before him, the king was suggesting something either immodest or indecent. Discuss the need for self-control (a fruit of the Spirit), Ephesians 5:17:18, and 1 Timothy 2:8 and the need for modesty in dress, even in a world where immodesty is expected. (This might be the perfect opportunity for a slumber party with your older girls.)

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Make crowns.

- Decorate them as Queen Vashti's might have looked.
- Print the memory verse on them.

Make castles. Use sand, if appropriate, toilet paper and paper towel rolls, boxes, etc. Be creative.

Decorate your area to resemble Susa. Decorate the main door as the entrance gate, one area as the garden and another as the inside of the palace. Reserve two areas for the throne room and an area outside of the palace.



The queen's party took place in King Xerxes' castle.



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