

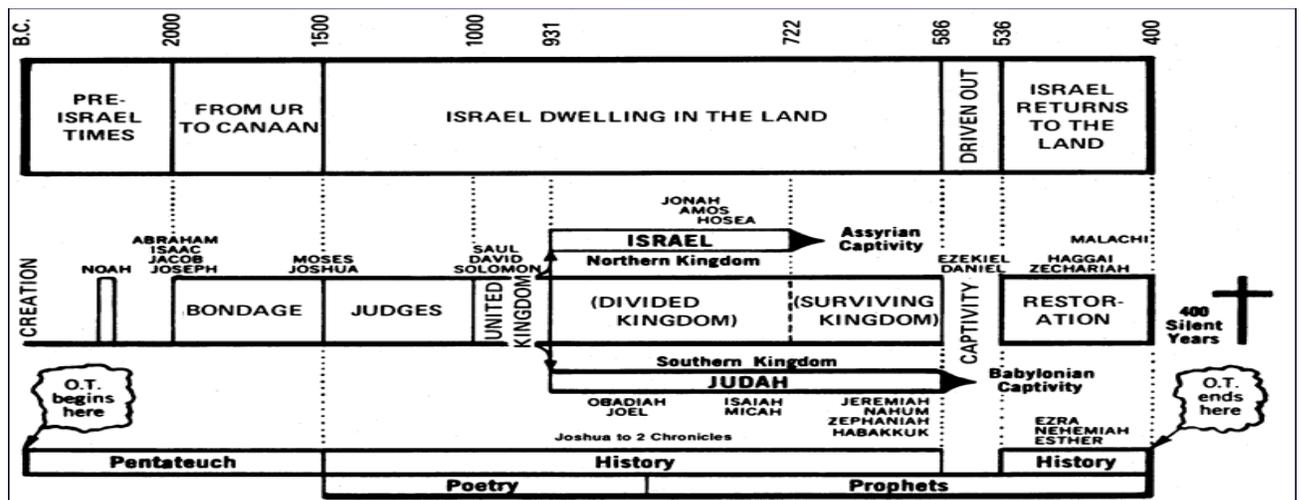
THE STAGE IS SET
 (Esther 1:1-9)

- Psalm 113:5-9

A. Let’s Highlight the INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION About “ESTHER”.

B. Let’s Anticipate the SCRIPTURAL LESSONS from the Book of ESTHER.

C. Let’s Remember the BIBLICAL CONTEXT of the Book of ESTHER. What events had transpired in the world and with the nation of Israel leading up to this story and situation?



D. Let’s Introduce the HISTORICAL SETTING of the Book of ESTHER. (1:1- 2)

1. The *significant events* in Esther begin in the ___ year of the reign of _____, and encompass the years of _____.
 2. The *geographical setting* for this story centers in the royal winter palace of _____, in the country of _____, which is modern-day _____.
- How did the Jews of this book end up in the country of Persia?
 - While King Ahasuerus is the most mentioned human character in this book, what must you remember about God in this OT classic, as well as in your life?

E. Let’s Understand the PRIMARY FACTORS that LED UP to the DETHRONING of QUEEN VASHTI. (1:3-22)

1. It all began with a _____ royal _____ by the King. (1:3-6) What did King Ahasuerus seek to accomplish through this banquet?
 - a) *Historically*, it acted as a time to impress various nobility, government officials, and army officers to plan a _____ against the Greeks. (1:3) What should we remember about war in general and the value of personal and national defense?

b) *Personally*, it was a way to _____ his power and the glory of his kingdom and personal greatness to all. (1:4) What should we remember regarding a proper view of wealth and the problem of pride?

c) *Practically*, it served to gain the _____ of the people of Shushan who were invited. (1:5) What should those in authority remember about whom they are ultimately accountable to, the people they serve, and also the temptation of being a people pleaser?

- What was the length of this banquet? How is this possible and what does this underscore? (1:4c)

2. It involved a *serious drinking party that was _____ and _____*. (1:7-8)

- What were the Persians known for? What was true of this drinking party?
- What must you remember as a child of God regarding drinking alcohol and the use of other controlling substances?

1) While drinking alcohol is _____ sin, drunkenness is _____ by God in both the Old Testament (Prov. 20:1; Isa. 5:11, 28:7-8, 56:11-12) and the New Testament (Rom. 13:13, 1 Cor. 11:21, Eph. 5:18, 1 Thess. 5:6-8) which indicates this a permanent principle for all dispensations and ages.

2) Drunkenness is a _____ and is a _____ (Gal.5:19), oftentimes with _____ and _____ results (Prov.23:20-21, 29-35; Hosea 4:1; Gen.9:21; Deut.21:20). The believer needs to turn to the Lord in prayer and faith-rest in His promises, not turn to a bottle, to find inner peace or to deal with the pressures of life (Phil. 4:6-7).

3) Drunkenness is _____ through the blood of Christ (1 Cor.6:9-11), and _____ in light of a believer's POSITION IN CHRIST and through the power of the HOLY SPIRIT (1 Cor.6:19-20; Eph.5:18).

4) Drinking wine is not strictly forbidden among believers in Christ as it is an area of _____ and _____ in which each believer will give an account for at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Romans 14:1-12); thus, you are not to JUDGE other believers in these areas, nor are you to put a STUMBLINGBLOCK for others to fall as your liberty is not designed to indulge your flesh and to do your will but to _____ in love. (Romans 14:13-18) A believer must not violate his CONSCIENCE & CONVICTIONS before the Lord in drinking alcohol, and must be willing to totally abstain if it would cause himself or another believer to stumble, or be offended, or be made weak (Rom.14:20-23; 1 Cor.8:9), or if it would be a bad TESTIMONY to the unsaved (1 Cor.10:31-32).

5) While it is not wrong to be present when unbelievers are drinking alcohol (Matt.11:19; John 2), believers are not to _____ with fellow-believers who are drunkards (1 Cor. 5:11), nor pursue or participate in _____ (1 Peter 4:1-4).

3. It also included a *separate banquet for the women in the royal palace*. (1:9)

- What does this underscore?
- How does all this apply to you?