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BIBLE HOUSE  
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GRACE**

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# Esther 1

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Esther 1.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

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### Topics.

- King Ahasuerus gives a 180-day feast for all the nobles and his officials.
- King Ahasuerus gives a 7-day feast for all the people.
- The king commands Queen Vashti to show the people her beauty.
- Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command.
- The king, gives a royal order that Vashti is never to come before King.

**INTRODUCTION:** this is a brilliant story of the great faith of a young humble Jewish woman who became Queen of the Persian Empire that has a beautiful twist at the end and that clearly shows that God's sovereign hand is not only upon the Jewish nation, but also upon the secular nations to bring about his eternal plans and purposes. The primary focus of this study is upon the core beauty of the story and not upon the detail of the places or the history of it. The book of Esther never mentions God's name, yet God is clearly orchestrating all its events. Esther, a Jew living among the exiles in Persia and became Queen of the Empire in about 480 B.C. Haman, a Persian official, sought to eradicate the Jewish minority, but God had prepared Esther for such a time as this (4:14) to save His covenant people.

The book was written some decades later to document the origins of the Jewish observance of Purim. Purim celebrates Israel's survival and God's faithfulness. The author is unknown, but some believe it could have been Esther's cousin Mordecai, a key person in the book, or perhaps Ezra or Nehemiah. Throughout the book we see God's sovereign hand preserving his people, showing that all is under his control.

**NOTE:** for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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## ESTHER 1

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- **Esther 1:1-22:** Now in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces,<sup>2</sup> in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in Susa, the citadel,<sup>3</sup> in the third year of his reign he gave a feast for all his officials and servants. The army of Persia and Media and the nobles and governors of the provinces were before him,<sup>4</sup> while he showed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor and pomp of his greatness for many days, 180 days.<sup>5</sup> And when these days were completed, the king gave for all the people present in Susa the citadel, both great and small, a feast lasting for seven days in the court of the garden of the king's palace.<sup>6</sup> There were white cotton curtains and violet hangings fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rods and marble pillars, and also couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and precious stones.<sup>7</sup> Drinks were served in golden vessels, vessels of different kinds, and the royal wine was lavished according to the bounty of the king.<sup>8</sup> And drinking was according to this edict: "There is no compulsion." For the king had given orders to all the staff of his palace to do as each man desired.<sup>9</sup> Queen Vashti also gave a feast for the women in the palace that 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 Carkas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus,<sup>11</sup> to bring Queen Vashti before the king with her royal crown, in order to show the peoples and the princes her beauty, for she was lovely to look at.<sup>12</sup> But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. At this the king became enraged, and his anger burned within him.<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the wise men who knew the times (for this was the king's procedure toward all who were versed in law and judgment,<sup>14</sup> the men

next to him being Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the king's face, and sat first in the kingdom):<sup>15</sup> "According to the law, what is to be done to Queen Vashti, because she has not performed the command of King Ahasuerus delivered by the eunuchs?"<sup>16</sup> Then Memucan said in the presence of the king and the officials, "Not only against the king has Queen Vashti done wrong, but also against all the officials and all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus."<sup>17</sup> For the queen's behavior will be made known to all women, causing them to look at their husbands with contempt, since they will say, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, and she did not come.'<sup>18</sup> This very day the noble women of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's behavior will say the same to all the king's officials, and there will be contempt and wrath in plenty.<sup>19</sup> If it please the king, let a royal order go out from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it may not be repealed, that Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus. And let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.<sup>20</sup> So when the decree made by the king is proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, for it is vast, all women will give honor to their husbands, high and low alike."<sup>21</sup> This advice pleased the king and the princes, and the king did as Memucan proposed.<sup>22</sup> He sent letters to all the royal provinces, to every province in its own script and to every people in its own language, that every man be master in his own household and speak according to the language of his people.

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## THE STORY

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King Ahasuerus reigned from Susa the capital over one-hundred and twenty-seven provinces from India to Ethiopia. In the third year of the king's reign he sat on his royal throne in Susa, the capital and gave a feast for all his officials and his servants and the army of Persia and Media, the nobles and governors of the provinces for one-hundred and eighty days. When this feast had ended the king gave a feast for all the people (both great and small) for seven days in the court of the garden of his palace to show his greatness. On the seventh day of this feast the king merry with wine commanded his servants to bring Queen Vashti with her royal crown before him in order to show the people her beauty, for she was lovely to look at. But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command and the king became enraged, and his anger burned within him. The king's wise men said to the king Queen Vashti has not only done wrong against the king, but has also done wrong against all those attending the feast and now all women will look to their husbands with contempt so a law was made that:

- Vashti would never again go before the king.
- Her royal position would be given to another.
- All women will give honor to their husbands.

These laws were scripted in all the different languages of the people and the king had them sent as royal letters to all the provinces in his kingdom.

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**Susa:** is in Iran between Ur and Babylon.

**Ethiopia:** is in Africa.

**India:** is on the east boundary of the Persian Empire.

**Ahasuerus:** is also spelt Xerxes and have their setting around 473 BC.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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