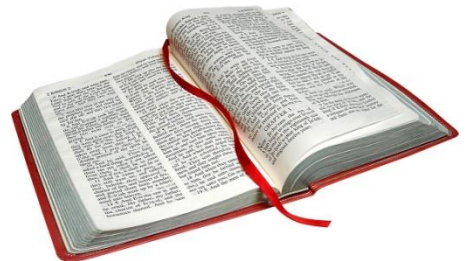




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Xerxes

A Persuaded King

and so will I go in unto the king,
which is not according to the law:
and if I perish, I perish
- Esther 4:16 -

Background

- Many Jews are still living in Persia after the Babylonian captivity (c. 483-473 B.C.)
- When their very existence is threatened, they are saved by a woman with a strong and courageous character

Xerxes

- He was persuaded to remove Vashti (1:21)
- He was persuaded to remarry (2:4)
- He was persuaded to destroy the Jews (3:9)

Xerxes

- He was persuaded to confront Haman (5:8; 7:3)
- He was persuaded to save the Jews (8:5)
- He was persuaded to hang Haman's sons (9:13; see esp. 9:25)

Esther

- A woman of beauty (2:7) and godly character
- 1 Samuel 25:3
- Proverbs 31:30

Esther

- A submissive woman (2:7; 4:8)
- A caring woman (4:13-14)
- A spiritual woman (4:15-17)
- A courageous woman (4:16)

Esther

- A wise woman (5:1-8)
- A truthful woman (7:1-6)
- A radical woman (8:3-8)
- An influential woman (10:29-32)

Persuading Others to Change

- Submissive to God (Jas. 4:7)
- Caring enough to save (Rom. 10:1; Jude 23)
- Spiritual in practice (1 Tim. 4:8)
- Courage to confront (2 Tim. 1:7)

Persuading the World to Change

- Wise in words (Col. 4:5-6)
- Truthful and plain (2 Cor. 3:12)
- Radical to reverse the status quo (Acts 17:6)
- Influential (Phil. 2:15-16)